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Zion's Herald.

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All stationed preachers in the Methodist Episcopal Church are authorized agents for their locality.

The Outlook.

About 40,000 veterans of the Civil War will have reason to be grateful to the Fifty-third Congress for the liberal provision made for them by which their pensions, all of which were below \$5 per month, were raised to that figure. Seventy-two dollars per year is now the minimum for these deserving pensioners.

The Czar has earned the gratitude of his subjects and the commendation of humane people of every name by the edict which abolished the cruel and infamous use of the knout (or rather, the plet, its successor,) in punishment. Within ten years 3,000 people, guilty only of petty thefts, have succumbed to its deadly infliction. Thousands of others survive with scars which they will carry to their graves. In its abolition Russia takes an upward step.

A sharp upward movement in cotton occurred last week. The rise within a few days was twenty-six points. As a "point" represents \$5 on the value of 100 bales, it is clear that the total improvement was \$130 for every 100 bales. A decided activity in the market was noted both abroad and at home. Of course, there will come a reaction, but the present advance is highly encouraging after the long stagnation and depression in price — the lowest since 1848.

The "wobbling" of the Pole, asserted some time ago by Dr. S. C. Chandler, has been measured by that scientist. The motions may all be included within a space sixty feet square, he says. Within this space the Pole "traces out a series of ellipses of different dimensions and positions." This instability is capable of demonstration, but it contradicts our school-boy ideas of polar fixity.

The successive defeats sustained by the woman suffragists during the past six months in New Hampshire, South Dakota, New York, Kansas and Massachusetts, have been lightened slightly by one victory — the vote in favor of municipal suffrage for women by the Maine House of Representatives. It is the indifference, or open opposition, to the ballot of large numbers of women themselves that constitutes the most serious obstacle to their enfranchisement.

A new plow is needed — one which, instead of making an impacted furrow through which the rain will not permeate, will, instead, turn up the soil spade-fashion, and pulverize it and make it receptive of rain. It is especially needed in the West on undulating land where the soil is constantly eroded by the present style of plowing, the furrows becoming channels for the heavy showers and being more or less washed by the same. The approaching international exhibition of agricultural machinery, to be held in Vienna in May, may contain a specimen of the instrument desired.

Utah is to be admitted to Statehood. A convention is now in session in Salt Lake City framing a constitution, which is to be submitted to the people in November. The Mormons, of course, are in control, but the fortunate fact is that they assert political independence, and are about equally divided between the two great parties. Prohibition, woman suffrage, and silver, are the questions on which the bitterest battles will be fought in the convention.

The Japanese Advancing.

Within two weeks the Japanese have gained two splendid victories, capturing old New-Chwang and Tenchantal, both which towns were stubbornly defended. New-Chwang has 60,000 people, and is only thirty-five miles from Moukden, the principal city of Manchuria, and the ancestral home of the dynasty that now rules China. The battle lasted thirteen hours (principally street-fighting), and while the victors lost a little over 200 men killed and wounded, the Chinese loss was 1,880 killed and wounded, 600 prisoners, and large quantities of war material. In the Tenchantal fight the assault and conflict were similar to that at New-Chwang. The attack was made by concentrating divisions marching upon the town under cover of a hot artillery fire. The resistance, determined at first, soon yielded to panic, and the Chinese fled, leaving 2,000 dead or dying; the Japanese lost only 100. The town caught fire during the fight and was burned to the ground. Unless Li Hung Chang hastens on his peace mission, the Japanese will seize Moukden, and thus become the masters of Manchuria as well as of Korea.

For Repressing Disorder in the Indian Territory.

Three judicial districts were provided for by the last Congress, with a presiding judge, a district attorney and clerk in each. Eleven different places in these districts were designated for holding court two terms annually. Further, each judge may appoint six commissioners for his district who shall have exclusive jurisdiction in civil cases where less than \$100 is at issue and in criminal cases involving misdemeanor only. These federal courts are to have plenary jurisdiction of offences committed in the Territory. With this improved judicial system, criminals will be dealt with promptly and on the spot, instead of being carried to courts in neighboring States. Fugitives from justice will no longer find a refuge, or where they can reckon on escape from arrest, and be unmolested in planning fresh crime. The relations between the Indians, the Whites and the Negroes will henceforth be defined by law. In a few years under this new system the chaotic condition of the Indian Territory will be reduced to order, and from it will be evolved the worthy State of Indianola.

Perpetuating Municipal Reform.

The City Vigilance League of New York, of which Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst is the leader, has installed itself in comfortable quarters in the United Charities building, has had its treasury replenished by the testimonial fund raised for its president (which now amounts to \$22,468.25), and has organized for effective business. Its invincible aim is to see that the laws are enforced by the police and other officials appointed for that purpose. In carrying out this plan an agent has been appointed for each Assembly district in the city, who is to keep himself posted on everything that concerns the public welfare in that district; and the intention is to have an agent in every city block who will be similarly responsible. The headquarters of the League is to constitute a bureau of information in all matters pertaining to city government. Under this régime no backward step will be permitted without protest.

The Hudson River Bridge.

Since the cantilever type of structure was rejected, experts have been busy trying to solve the problem of how to construct a steel wire suspension bridge, wide enough for six railroad tracks and strong enough for heavy trains to pass or cross at high speed, for a sum not to exceed \$23,000,000 (the price estimated by the Secretary of War), and to be finished in four years. The Bridge Company has finally accepted plans and specifications drawn up by Theodore Cooper, a member of the commission appointed by President Cleveland. They pro-

vide for a clear span of 3,100 feet, at an elevation at the centre of not less than 150 feet at high water. The towers will be steel skeleton structures, set in masonry piers built up 80 feet above high-water mark. The graceful curves of the cables on this new structure will add beauty to the Hudson, and the increased size and height of the bridge will dwarf that of the East River. Bridge-builders will be asked to bid on these new and accepted plans.

Sir Henry Rawlinson.

He was five years older than his brother, Rev. George Rawlinson, the well-known historian and Canon of Canterbury. His career, however, has been more varied. He achieved fame as a diplomat, an Indian administrator, a soldier in Afghanistan and Persia (he held the rank of major general at his death), as well as a geographer and an archaeologist. Sixty years ago (when only twenty-five years old) he began the study of the trilingual cuneiform inscriptions found on the site of ancient Babatana. Two years later he imperiled his life in copying a part of the great Behistun inscriptions engraved on the face of a lofty rock 300 feet above the ground. The Asiatic Society was indebted to him, over half a century ago, for a larger collection of these writings than then existed in Europe. The trustees of the British Museum commissioned him to superintend the excavations at Nineveh and Babylon which Layard had begun, and the books that he subsequently published as the result of his discoveries have earned for him the title of "the father of Assyriology." Titles and honors were heaped upon him. Born in 1810, he retained to above fourscore his splendid physical and intellectual powers, and has left behind him a worthy name.

Over One Thousand Patents Killed.

No decision ever handed down by the Supreme Court has affected so many inventions and monopolies as that of the Bates Refrigerating case, which began with a quarrel over some butcher's sausages, but which, by reason of the principle involved, quickly enlisted on either side the ablest lawyers in the country. The principle at issue was whether the date of application for, or the date of issue of, an American patent should determine whether or not it expires coincidentally with a foreign patent granted for the same invention. The Court decided that the patent right should date from its issue, and not from the date of its application. The interpretation of Section 4887 of the Revised Statutes, which limits the life of a United States patent by the terms of a previously-granted foreign patent for the same invention, is now no longer in doubt. The decision invalidates most of the existing Bell and Edison telephone patents, including the four which were allowed to lie idle in the Patent Office for fifteen years. It sets free the telephone, the phonograph, incandescent lamps, "the multiple arc," to say nothing of hundreds of minor inventions. It will also cause to lapse a vast number of cases now before the courts. The aggregate capital affected by this decision is put at \$600,000,000.

Telephoning to Ships.

For several years Prof. Lucien I. Blake, of the Kansas State University, has been experimenting with maritime electricity. In the summer of 1893, under the auspices of the Lighthouse Board, he undertook to open telephonic communication between the station at Wood's Holl and the light-ship in the harbor. He first connected his wire cable with the anchor of the ship, but the salt absorbed so much electricity as the latter passed up the chain that only imperfect results were obtained. He succeeded better by passing the wire cable through a drilled hole in the anchor fluke and connecting it with a copper plug in the stock of the anchor. Last year Prof. Blake, at the request of the government, undertook to establish telephonic communication between

Sandy Hook light station and the Scotland Light-ship, four miles apart by water. Instead of running his electric cable to the anchor, as at Wood's Holl (which did not seem to work well in this case), he laid down a system of wires in the vicinity of the light-ship by means of which he could electrify the sea in the field in which the ship swung with the wind or tide. Then he ran his cable out to this system, and messages were sent and received with perfect ease. Not only will this new method relieve the isolation of light-ships in stormy weather, and enable them to communicate important intelligence of passing or disabled ships, but it also marks a step towards what Nicola Tesla, as well as Prof. Blake, believes to be attainable — telephonic communication between passing ships with only the sea for a conductor; also an automatic electrical arrangement by which the proximity of another ship may be indicated, thus averting collisions in foggy weather.

The Maritime Canal Project.

Some New York capitalists propose to connect the Great Lakes with the Atlantic by a navigable waterway of a uniform depth of twenty feet, and wide enough for two vessels to pass one another at full speed. They propose to utilize the waters of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Champlain and the Hudson River, connecting the same by canals; and, as the lakes are higher than the Hudson, discharging the waters of the former into the latter. Not only do they hope by this project to compete for the 60,000,000 tons of through freight from the Lakes to the seaboard, and to enable vessels to load at Chicago or Milwaukee for Liverpool or any other foreign port direct, but also they plan to furnish to the towns and villages along the valley of the Hudson a pure and inexhaustible water-supply. The Company seeks incorporation and authorization both from the federal government and the State of New York. It asks the approval of its plans by the Secretary of War, and will submit its schedule of tolls to the Interstate Commission. Its capital stock is fixed at \$150,000,000. No canal scheme so gigantic as this has hitherto been proposed in this country.

The Lottery Bill.

One of the most obstinate fights that occurred in the late Congress was made over the passage of this bill, and for its successful enactment Senator George F. Hoar richly deserves the gratitude of his countrymen. Both in the House and the Senate the opposition was constant and insidious, for the lottery company had its agents among the members of both chambers, and a persistent lobby besides. After being passed, there was danger of the bill being tied up by notice of a motion to reconsider. For twelve hours Mr. Hoar remained at his post waiting his opportunity for recognition, and secured it at last. The motion to reconsider was tabled. The bill was taken to the President and signed. The New York Times says: "Give Senator Hoar a gold cup two feet high!" He is worthy of this or any appropriate testimonial, but his highest reward will be the satisfaction of having effectually smitten one of the deadliest evils of the present age. The law of 1890 denied the use of the mails for the transmission of lottery circulars or for money orders sent for the purchase of tickets. Then the company resorted to the express for distributing tickets and lists of drawings, and these express companies became practically the accomplices of the lottery company for a share of the profits. The new law suppresses this abuse by the threat of fine and imprisonment. It also excludes the lottery companies from any use whatsoever of the United States mails. In a word, the new measure was drawn up with so much care, and made so stringently prohibitive, that it seems no longer possible for this nefarious business to be conducted in this country.

Presiding Elders' Symposium.

GREATEST OBSTACLES AND GREATEST ENCOURAGEMENTS.

TO put our readers into closer sympathy with the work of these important representatives of the church, we have asked all the presiding elders of our patronizing Conferences to answer the following inquiry: "What are the Greatest Obstacles, and What the Greatest Encouragements, that Meet You in the Discharge of the Duties of Your Responsible Office?"

New England Conference.

Rev. J. O. Knowles, D. D.

Boston East District.

The editor asks for the "greatest obstacles" and the "greatest encouragements" I find, as I attend to the work to which I am assigned. As I have used one-quarter of the words indicated as desirable, I can only say the "obstacles" are unrenewed and unsanctified men; and the "great encouragement" is in the multitude of genuine conversions, the wider intelligence and increasing piety of the church, that with other signs declare the hastening coming of the perfect kingdom of Christ.

Lynn, Mass.

Rev. George F. Eaton, D. D.

Boston North District.

Infidelities and embarrassments obtain everywhere; they are met in all enterprises, secular and religious. Hence, while I may here mention some that pertain to my office, I would not emphasize them as especially peculiar or remarkable. My greatest obstacles may be another's smallest.

A part of a presiding elder's duty is to hold the quarterly conference. This conference, with the pastor and church officials, ought to be mutually helpful, and helpful in a large way. The time may be easily recalled when this was almost uniformly the case. It should be so today. Changed conditions need not lessen the direct and positive helpfulness of the quarterly conference. Our trouble today is in a minified conference. It is regarded as important only as it may afford information to the presiding elder, while chief stress is laid upon the meetings of the stewards and official boards. The quarterly conference, with its all-inclusive official membership, should be a business meeting where every question vital to church life should be thoroughly discussed. The best men of the society would be present, and its influence would tell upon the work of the year.

Another great difficulty is in dealing with small men — men abnormally small, made so not by nature so much as by choice; men who never read a helpful book, or take a church paper, or broaden by contact with a progressive age. Such men stand in the way of large plans and aggressive service, and we suffer in our social, financial and religious life.

In the "cabinet," where warm hearts and clear heads alone can meet the responsibilities of the hour, grave embarrassments arise from the aggressive and often unreasonable demands of both pastors and people. Life-long sorrow is sometimes the result.

My space is more than exhausted, and the balance of the question must remain unanswered.

North Cambridge, Mass.

Rev. Joseph H. Mansfield, D. D.

Boston South District.

The obstacles are few in comparison with the encouragements.

I find obstacles in hard fields where officials have little courage and less faith; in discouraged pastors who see no chance for success, and so fail to secure success in revival work and the apportionments for our great benevolences; in the belittling of the presiding elder's work on the part of pastors and officials; in committees that pass by men who have a name and record, and seek for a pastor among the unknown, or from afar.

The encouragements are found in the welcome given the presiding elder by pastors and people at the time of quarterly visits; in the full attendance of officials at the quarterly conferences, and the full reports given by every department of the work; in the splendid courage and efficient work of pastors who believe in revivals and have them; who receive the apportionments for benevolences without complaint, raise the full amounts and in many cases even more; in the unswerving loyalty and generosity and spirituality of many of the laymen; in the broad view of laymen and pastors who see work to be done beyond the limits of their own churches; in the City Missionary Societies of Boston and Worcester, and in the faithful ministers among the Swedes, the Italians, the Portuguese, and other foreign peoples; and, last of all, in the broad-minded and hearty co-operation of my colleagues in office.

Boston, Mass.

Rev. E. R. Thorndike.

Springfield District.

Obstacles. — (1) Unofficial interference with appointment-making, (2) Inability to satisfy all of the churches with such preachers as we have, or to satisfy every preacher with such

churches as we have. (3) Slackness in adhering to disciplinary requirements. (4) Insufficiency of money, brains and piety.

Encouragements. — (1) "The tie that binds" churches and preachers in that uniformity of usages, doctrines, modes of worship, kinds of amusement and general course of action essential to the church that seeks to be one and not many. (2) The helps that young ministers receive in several ways not met by our theological schools. (3) The opportunity to promote revivals, our church benevolences, and better business methods in some churches; and being a very necessary adviser of the Bishop so long as preachers change and appointments must be made.

Springfield, Mass.

New England Southern Conference.

Rev. Walter Eia.

New Bedford District.

Discouragements. — (1) The size of the district. Seventy pastoral charges allow a presiding elder little time for other than the work of the quarterly conferences. He wants to help the churches on spiritual lines, he is expected to boom the benevolences, he often sees the need of arousing the people with reference to local interests. Yet even by preaching twice, and often three times, on the Sabbath, he can reach but few of the congregations more than once a year. (2) The lack of greater liberality in supporting the churches. At the quarterly conferences the disposition is to magnify their inability rather than their ability to provide the funds necessary for the most successful work. (3) The lack of local connectional interest. Too many of our churches are so anxious for their own prosperity that they fail to render help, financial or personal, to lift a neighboring struggling church to prosperity. Some of our stronger churches are depriving themselves of the added strength which would come to them from wisely-established missions in accessible fields which are white unto the harvest.

Encouragements. — (1) Association and fellowship with the best of our church membership, where is constantly found evidence of real self-denial and consecration to Christian service. (2) A broader view of the workings of our church system, and its adaptation to all communities and to all classes of people. (3) The ability to carry cheer and encouragement to the faint and disheartened, to aid in maintaining worship where otherwise it would be impossible to do so, and to make even the weakest church feel that it is a part of the great denomination; also to do something in establishing public worship in destitute fields. (4) The finding out of young men whom God is calling to the work of the ministry, encouraging them in the preparation for, or introducing them into, the work of their calling.

Fall River, Mass.

Rev. Eben Tirrell.

Norwich District.

Obstacles are found in the ignorance, incompetency, illiberality and disloyalty of official and other members. These stand in the way of the liberal support of local work, the increase of the benevolent collections, and the use of Methodist publications and papers. In arranging for the appointments, the greatest obstacle is found in the unreasonable demands of ministers and churches. The supreme obstacle is the condition where, under reductions of salaries, every changing man desires a larger salary and every church a better man.

Encouragements arise from facts and conditions opposite to those named above — intelligent, competent, large-hearted and loyal officials and churches. The fraternal, kindly spirit of ministers and their families, excellent entertainment, warm beds, friendly comments upon poor old sermons, and other pleasant things, encourage the presiding elder.

Genuine revivals of religion change obstacles into encouragements.

Norwich, Conn.

Rev. S. O. Benton.

Providence District.

The greatest obstacle that I recognize is the indifference toward church obligations that is so widely prevalent among our members. There is a woful lack of a sense of personal responsibility. The result appears in slipshod business management, the shirking of financial burdens, carelessness respecting official duties, ignorance of the Discipline, and irregularity of attendance upon the means of grace. Could this obstacle be removed, most of the embarrassments to success in our churches would vanish.

Among the encouragements are: (1) The heroic devotion of our ministers. Never more than now, and nowhere more than in some parts of New England, has the spirit of the Methodist itinerant been put to the test. Hard work, small pay and barren fields try men's souls, but our men stand the trial nobly. (2) The general loyalty of our people to our system of pastoral appointments. I speak now of Providence District, where obstruction by imperious committees is almost unknown. Most of the charges are satisfied to leave the selection of a pastor wholly to the Bishop and presiding elder. Such committees as are raised usually exist for consultation chiefly, and are a help rather than a hindrance to wise adjustments. (3) The

Epworth League. The value of this organization in the church is not a uniform one. In rare instances it may be more bother than help. But, in general, the Epworth League is doing a grand work in inspiring our young people to deeper piety, broader culture and more abundant service. Its influence is already becoming a healthy corrective to that indifference to duty which I have bewailed as an obstacle.

Providence, R. I.

New Hampshire Conference.

Rev. S. C. Keeler.

Concord District.

Obstacles. — (1) Want of faith in God for His work. (2) Weak connectional bond, shown by indifference to connectional enterprises. (3) Inert committees on finance. (4) Communities with depleted or changed population, wanting in the local churchly interest once existing. (5) Small resources of many churches, with only meagre aid for them from missionary funds. (6) Disposition to make stations of churches that ought to be united in circuits.

Encouragements. — (1) The promise, "Lo! I am with you." (2) Patient, persistent, cheerful, devoted pastors. (3) The chosen few among the official members who see their opportunities and seek to make the most of all of them. (4) Men and women with the Lord's money, who comprehend the district's needs — like one man who gave the writer \$250 for the poorly-paid pastors, and one elect lady who has given him several times \$50 for the same purpose.

Concord, N. H.

Rev. George W. Norris.

Dover District.

The greatest obstacles are: Ecclesiastical anæmia, manifest in mental, moral and spiritual inertia; substitution of alien for our church periodicals; ignorance of denominational polity and progress; lay and clerical domination of the "state;" clerical demands for promotion on pain of desertion; refusal of weak charges to unite for comfortable pastoral support; clamor for smart, brainy young men, whose musical gifts, social versatility, intellectual athletics, and theological gymnastics shall entertain the young people; inability of the elder to accurately measure and wisely adapt workers to all fields.

The greatest encouragements are: The incoming spiritual life evidenced by the new birth of many souls; the manifest purpose of our young people to make the Epworth League a spiritual dynamo; increasing number who see holiness to be the normal expression of the new life, and intelligent consecration and pious use of substance, strength and skill to be the natural result of self-surrender to Christ.

Despite all our short-comings, God still has use for the Methodist Episcopal Church in soul-winning and temple building.

Dover, N. H.

Rev. O. S. Baketel.

Manchester District.

Obstacles. — (1) Lack of business methods in church affairs. (2) Contracted ideas as to what God's work demands. (3) Small measure of spirituality and apparently no hungering for more. (4) Many, most, cannot afford (?) the church paper; but they must have the political! (5) Here and there some backslidden professor acting the part of a balky horse, thus making it hard for preacher and people.

Encouragements. — (1) A goodly company of faithful souls whose "garments have not been defiled." (2) The consecrated, active women without whom some churches could not exist. (3) The broad-minded, evangelistic, spiritual souls, some of whom are found everywhere. (4) Increased interest and power of our young people through the Epworth League. (5) Amidst the indifference of many, an increase of spiritual life with some that is leading to the salvation of souls.

Manchester, N. H.

Vermont Conference.

Rev. L. L. Beeman.

Montpelier District.

Obstacles. — (1) A diminished population. Montpelier District has preaching services in 50 different townships; 86 per cent. of these towns have decreased in population as shown by the census. (2) A changed population. The population is not only less, but foreigners have supplanted the natives to some extent. (3) The slight probability of any change for the better in many towns. (4) A growing leniency on the part of sister churches as regards card-playing, dancing, and theatre-going. (5) Indifferentism and infidelity. Some communities are saturated with the false doctrines of unorthodox pulpits, and the Gospel makes very little progress.

Encouragements. — (1) The heroism of the ministry. The ministry works and preaches and sacrifices today no less heroically than did the fathers. (2) The heroism of the laity. A sublime faith holds the churches steady in the face of obstacles. The laity believe that God has organized His church for victory and not for defeat. (3) Responsiveness to faithful preaching. The old Gospel preached faithfully

always brings revival. (4) The forward movement known as the Epworth League.

Montpelier, Vt.

Rev. S. Olin Sherburne.

St. Albans District.

Obstacles. — (1) Too many denominations at work in the smaller fields. (2) Too many poorly-equipped preachers. (3) Too many poor business methods. (4) Too little deep spirituality.

Encouragements. — (1) That God has many saints on the earth. (2) That the people are being saved. (3) That the growing armies of the Sunday-school and Epworth League give promise of greater victories in the century to come.

St. Albans, Vt.

Rev. Joseph Hamilton.

St. Johnsbury District.

Obstacles. — (1) Apathy on the part of the membership. (2) Too many churches in small places. (3) Scarcity of church papers among the membership. (4) Lack of system in conducting the finances of the church, and a disposition on the part of too many to leave the work undone till the last of the year.

Encouragements. — (1) The willingness of the pastors to co-operate with each other and the presiding elder in every good work which may lead souls to Christ and build up the church. (2) The increase in pastors' salaries and all the benevolences of the church. (3) The revival of the class-meeting, the quarterly love-feast, and the old-fashioned way of inviting sinners to the altar for prayer. (4) The great work our Epworth League is doing in training our young people to become leaders in all departments of church work.

St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Maine Conference.

Rev. J. B. Lapham.

Augusta District.

Some of the obstacles in the presiding elder's work are: (1) The breaking up of time and plans for reading and study. (2) The prejudice against the presiding eldership on the part of those who do not comprehend our connectional character, polity and itinerancy. (3) The being at a distance from a centre of disturbance when the pastor is immature or indiscreet. (4) The embarrassment of receiving his claim, or even a part of it, from a charge that, on account of penuriousness or poverty, fails to give the pastor a comfortable support. (5) On the Augusta District the railroads are so located as to divide instead of unite the district. It is very difficult to convene at any place from all parts of it for associations, conventions, or Leagues. On this account we have multiplied our camp-meetings so that we have four regularly established. The past season three were in progress the same week — exceedingly embarrassing and crippling the work of the presiding elder.

There are many encouragements, not the least of which are: (1) The privilege of associating with the best people of the community and church, for his work brings him officially into relation with them. (2) The appreciation of pastors and people. (3) The opportunity afforded of helping churches when they are in difficulty. Their successes are his encouragements.

Kent's Hill, Me.

Rev. J. Albert Corey.

Lewiston District.

Obstacles. — (1) In recent years population has shifted from country to town and city, sadly weakening the rural church and narrowing the opportunity of its pastor. (2) In many quarterly conferences there is a lack of systematic business methods; written reports are infrequent, oral reports insufficient — the Discipline is ignored. (3) Except in a few instances, the class-meeting has declined in power; good timber for class-leaders has become scarce, hence the pastor becomes class-leader. (4) The connectional bond has weakened. It is no longer possible to mass several societies in one grand quarterly meeting. The presiding elder is hence a much-divided man.

Encouragements. — (1) The establishment and strengthening of churches in village and city largely by material transferred from the country. (2) The uniform kindness and appreciation shown the presiding elder by pastors and people. (3) The loyalty of pastors and people to the doctrines and polity of the church. (4) The development of the Epworth League. (5) The generally improved conditions and widening opportunities of the preachers in charge.

Auburn, Me.

Rev. G. R. Palmer.

Portland District.

Obstacles. — (1) The pessimist triggering the wheels in front and on the uphill side when the load is heavy. (2) False estimates of men and success, worth discounted by tinsel show, and a cry of failure when we are outdone by a neighbor's display. (3) The disregard of the connectional bond of the itinerancy. A diplomacy forgetful that putting one in is keeping another out, church beheading church, transferring its storm centre to another, disturbing the gravity, or the centre of gravity, of Conferences. (4) Jesurun churches, fat or lean (Deut. 32:15).

Encouragements. — (1) Consecrated members

constantly avert calamity. Many times ten righteous are in the city. (2) Many preachers have the ring of victory, and count no hardships if they can win souls. (3) The kindness of preachers' families and kindred homes in making the way pleasant. (4) God and the Bible make me an optimist.

Saco, Me.

East Maine Conference.

Rev. B. C. Wentworth.
Bangor District.

Encouragements.—(1) Preachers who are intense revivalists and enjoy, live and preach a full-orbed Gospel; who seek to raise full apportionments for benevolences as a religious privilege, giving the people facts for their cash; who instruct the people how to provide for the temporalities of the church according to God's financial plan as set forth by Paul in 1 Cor. 16: 2. (2) Official members who are spiritual, broad-minded, clean-handed, pure-hearted; who know and love Methodist doctrine, Discipline and literature. (3) Churches who are loyal to the preacher, intelligent, teachable, generous, consecrated and aggressive.

Obstacles.—Preachers, official members, and churches falling much below the above standard.

Dexter, Me.

Rev. H. W. Norton.
Bucksport District.

As to greatest obstacles we notice: (1) Denominational jealousy on the part of some that have outlived their usefulness in the fields where we have gone. (2) Ignorance of Methodism and her methods on the part of many who ought to be well versed in the same. (3) Indifference to the importance of teaching the children the doctrines and Discipline of our church.

It is encouraging to know: (1) The stand our church has taken, and by the grace of God, is striving to maintain, against worldly and questionable amusements. (2) That into whatever place we have gone with the Gospel we are there to stay. Though in some instances it costs much of self-denial and sacrifice, there are those who are willing thus to toll for Christ and His church. (3) Increase in revival work; seeking the lost ones and enlightening the people in regard to the benevolent work we are doing; increasing interest among pastors and people in missions.

Bucksport, Me.

Rev. W. W. Ogier.
Rockland District.

Obstacles.—(1) Gradation of appointments on the basis of salary. (2) Finding a quarterly meeting regarded simply as an opportunity to take a collection, and the presiding elder a financial agent of Conference. (3) Unwillingness in some churches to have a financial system. (4) A misconception of our great benevolent enterprises, and the influence of wrong incentives in raising the apportionments. (5) Failure of some preachers to teach Christian giving because such teaching may be regarded as "axe-grinding" or "begging."—"For the love of money is the root of all evil."

Encouragements.—(1) Recognition by pastors and people of the duties and responsibilities of the office. (2) Uniform kindness shown the presiding elder, in whom is placed great confidence. (3) The heroism, self-sacrifice and devotion of the preachers. (4) The courage and loyalty of our people. (5) The confidence and esteem in which Methodist preachers are held by the public. (6) The acceptance of the fact that our first business is "soul-winning." Encouragements multiply, obstacles sink out of sight, the pathway brightens—for "God giveth the increase."

Thomaston, Me.

SOME FINAL IMPRESSIONS.

Rev. Henry S. Lunn, M. D.
Editor Review of the Churches.

THE final impressions of a target that had been battered all day by the well-directed aim of British riflemen in the annual contest at Wimbledon, would scarcely be of a very definite character. I have a similar battered feeling as I pen these lines on my last day in America. Impression has succeeded impression in this marvelous country with such rapidity; there has been so much to marvel at, so much to admire, and, be it said under one's breath, not a little to criticize, that the very multitude of impressions makes it difficult to describe any selection of them.

When my last story was interrupted, I was just leaving Chicago. I was greatly struck in that city, as also later on at Baltimore, with the splendid munificence of the great American millionaires. I am not sure that this is altogether an advantage, as it leads the American people to tolerate and approve of the existence of these abnormal excrescences of our nineteenth century civilization with a complacency which would not characterize public opinion if the millionaires were as miserly and as niggardly as our English dukes and wealthier nobility. However, "honor to whom honor is due,"

and it must be recognized that the great liberality which has found expression in a Chicago University, an Armour Institute, and a Johns Hopkins University and Hospital, finds no parallel in any magnificent endowments from any one of our three great London dukes—the Duke of Bedford, the Duke of Westminster, and the Duke of Portland. The latter are content to draw their millions from property the value of which has been created by no effort of their own, but by the combined industry and intelligence of the whole English nation, and, speaking broadly, in all great philanthropic movements the names of these men and their brother peers are conspicuous by their absence from the subscription lists. I have not the figures at hand, but they were recently published in the *Westminster Gazette*, showing the total contribution to the great Church of England Missionary Societies from all the titled aristocracy of England. The amount was beggarly in the extreme. When I contrast these facts with the munificence of your merchant princes, I find some explanation of a tendency in American life, which I myself deplore, to regard the millionaire as a normal creation and as a legitimate product of the present age; and even more than that, as a man who has attained a position which all ought to strive to secure.

At Washington it was my privilege to attend the magnificent meetings held in the Convention Hall to launch the Polyglot Petition on its mission of mercy around the world. I was also privileged to attend the meetings of your Woman's National Council, a parliament of women which is worthy of the profoundest admiration. I was greatly impressed with the statesmanlike ability of those who are at the head of this great movement, but I could not help marveling that the Methodist Church in America had found it possible to exclude from its legislative councils women who have proved in this great movement their executive and legislative ability.

Accompanied by Dr. Milburn, the chaplain of the Senate, who stayed at my father's home when I was a boy, some twenty years ago, I visited the Capitol, opened the Senate with prayer, and witnessed the proceedings of the House of Representatives. My wife and I had afterwards a short and most pleasant interview with President Cleveland, and I informed him, somewhat to his amusement, that I had been learning some pages of English history which I had not found in our own school histories, and which the paintings in our Houses of Parliament at Westminster did not portray. The Battle of Lake Erie and other similar events are battles of which the English schoolboy never hears, and thus is enabled to grow up in life believing that the Britisher never was beaten, but not quite understanding how the United States attained their independence.

In Washington I had the great privilege of being the guest of Dr. Beller, vice-chancellor of the new American University, and I was much interested in the scheme which our church is undertaking to provide a National University which shall be worthy of her own national position, and shall especially develop the post-graduate element.

The United Ministers' Meeting held here gave me a very hearty welcome, and followed the example of the Chicago Ministers' Meeting by unanimously passing a resolution to observe Whitsunday as a day of special prayer for Christian unity. They also passed a further resolution forming an Interdenominational Ministerial Association; so that I left Washington feeling that something definite had been accomplished in that city to further the object for which I had visited America.

I have already referred to my visit to the great institutions of Baltimore, and in that city I was also privileged to address a United Ministers' Meeting, presided over by a Bishop of one branch of Methodism and opened with prayer by a Bishop of another branch. The Baltimore ministers also agreed to observe Whitsunday as a day of special prayer for unity.

Philadelphia was the last of the series of American cities which I had the pleasure of visiting, and the meeting that had been planned for me to address was the ordinary Monday morning Methodist Ministers' Meeting. I was very glad indeed to be present at such an influential gathering of my own church, but I regretted that it had not been possible to arrange a similar meeting to that at Chicago. I shall, however, carry away with me the most delightful recollections of the heartiness and sympathetic interest with which the ministers of that great city listened to what I had to say upon the subject of Christian unity. After

the meeting I dined as a guest of Dr. T. B. Neely, whom I had the pleasure of meeting at Grindelwald last year. Bishop Foss and the Governor of Pennsylvania, who is one of the leading Methodist laymen of Philadelphia, also dined with us. I was much impressed, in a conversation during our dinner, with the comparative failure of American Methodism to utilize the local preacher. Governor Pattison was of opinion that a great deal might be done in the mining district of Pennsylvania to evangelize the miners, if something like our English circuit system could be adopted. It is a remarkable fact to an English Methodist that in this country local preachers are not more numerous than the regular ministry, whereas in England they are something like seven times as numerous, and in the circuit in which I was born and brought up there are forty local preachers with only two ministers, and nineteen chapels in the circuit, seventeen of which are supplied for every service by local preachers. It seems to me that there is great loss of power to the church in the fact that men of conspicuous ability like Governor Pattison should not be utilized on this side of the Atlantic in the same way that men like Mr. S. D. Waddy, Q. C., M. P., and others are employed in the church's service in England.

My tour has finished today with a hastily summoned meeting of ministers of different denominations, held in the marble Collegiate Church, Fifth Avenue, New York. I shall leave America tomorrow with some imperfect conception of the great possibilities which lie before this wonderful country and the English-speaking nation whose heritage it is. I cannot understand the tendency which manifests itself on the part of my fellow countrymen to carp and cavil at the institutions which have sprung up, it is true with a mushroom-like rapidity, but without any other ephemeral characteristics. It seems to me that all right-thinking men ought to find in the present greatness and prospective developments of this remarkable land a just cause for a true patriotic pride. The declaration of 1776 and the war that followed have not destroyed, and cannot destroy, those eternal bonds of kinship which unite the two great branches of the English-speaking race. There is nothing of more vital interest to the well-being of the whole human family than that the ties of blood should be strengthened by those bonds which come from the esteem and affection based upon a knowledge of each other's high qualities. Each nation has qualities which the other lacks, and I am convinced that the more we bridge over the Atlantic and come to understand each other, the more impossible will it be for anything to arise which shall mar that growing harmony which has characterized the relations of the two countries during recent years.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

(Extract from a memorial address delivered at Clark University, Atlanta, Ga.)

Prof. W. H. Croghan.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS is dead! How strange that sounds to those of us who from earliest boyhood have been accustomed to hear him spoken of as the living exponent of all that is noblest and best in the race. The mind reluctantly accepts the unwelcome truth. And yet it is truth—a serious, a solemn truth. Frederick Douglass is no more. The grand old hero of a thousand battles has at last fallen before the shaft of the common destroyer, and upon his well-battered shield loving hands have tenderly borne that stalwart form to its last, long resting-place. Earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes!

And is that all? Nay, verily, I tell you, no ordinary piece of clay has been laid away in the silent tomb. No mean or craven spirit has suddenly taken its flight. A character so massive, so colossal in its proportions, a life so singularly grand in its achievements, passes not away unnoticed. The great mad world in its giddy rush after material gains has paused to take note that a great man has fallen in our Israel; and humanity, enriched and blessed by his long and faithful services, lingers in tearful gratitude about his new-made grave. It were well for us

to pause. It were well for us, turning aside from the humdrum duties of the day, to lay upon his bier the tribute of gratitude and affection. It were well for us to contemplate, even though briefly, that remarkable life, and discover, if we may, what were the elements that, entering into it, made it so strong, so symmetrical, so sublime.

This country will never again see another Douglass; this world will never again see another Douglass; for in all probability there will never again exist that peculiar combination of circumstances to produce exactly such a type of manhood. Man is, in a measure, the product of environment. Yet it would be injustice to Frederick Douglass to say that he was simply great because of environment. He was great in spite of environment. Born a slave, subjected in his early youth and manhood to all the degrading, stultifying, demoralizing influences of slavery, he has left behind him, after a public life long and varied and stormy, a name as clean and spotless as driven snow. Take notice of this, young men, you who have ambitions, you who are aspiring to public place and position and power. Take notice that a public life need not be separated from unsullied honor.

I said Frederick Douglass was great in spite of environment. Had there been no slavery to fight, no freedom to win, he would still have been a great man. Greatness was inherent in his being, and circumstances simply evoked it. He was one of those choice spirits whom the Almighty sends into this world with the stamp of a great mission on their very form and features. Said Sam Johnson with reference to Burke, "Sir, if you were to see him under London Bridge in a mixed multitude who has hastily run there out of a passing shower, you would instantly recognize him as a great man." The same could well have been said of Douglass. No one could look on that massive, well-formed head, that strong, leonine face, with eyes that even in the seventies could flash fire, without feeling the power of a great personality. Those of you who saw him here in Atlanta a few years ago will long remember him. Nimble as a lad, straight as an arrow, tall, broad-shouldered, well-proportioned, he was just such a form as the old Greek sculptor would have delighted to put in marble.

The splendid physique of Douglass was in keeping with the strength and grasp of his masterly mind. Without the privilege of a day's instruction in a school-room, he acquired a fund of useful knowledge that would put to shame the meagre attainments of many a college graduate. His speeches and writings are models of a pure English style, and are characterized by simplicity, directness, force and elegance.

Many of the interesting facts and incidents in the life of this great man will undoubtedly be brought out by the speakers and essayists to follow. If I were asked to sum up in a word what made Frederick Douglass great, I should say a noble purpose—the purpose to render the largest possible service to mankind. Verily he has served us well, faithfully, unselfishly; and now, full of years and full of honors, loaded with such distinctions as this poor world has to give, he dies—dies as he lived—a brave, strong, pure, good man.

No more shall we behold that manly form. No more shall we listen to those eloquent lips upon which for over fifty years so many thousands have hung with rapture—those eloquent lips that have made his name famous in two hemispheres, and will surely keep it so as long as freedom has a history. God grant that the mantle of this old hero may fall upon a worthy successor! God grant that our young men, contemplating his life and emulating his example, may be lifted up to a higher conception of life, of duty, of responsibility, of usefulness!

Clark University, Atlanta, Ga.

Heat, Gas and Book Bindings.

"LOW book shelves," said a furniture dealer, who is a lover of books as well, "have an origin in reason besides the caprice of fashion. Heat is injurious to the binding of choice books, drying out the natural oil of the leather, and making them warp and get out of shape. Most rooms are very warm in the upper parts, and these five and six-foot cases are a necessity rather than a notion."

"Cold is as hard on books as overheating, and an atmosphere that is too damp or too dry also injures them. The sun pouring in directly on the shelves fades the bindings."

"An open fire is another necessity in a library; books require good air like a human being, and gas ought never to be used where valuable books are kept. Candles are hard on the eyes, though, and therefore should be avoided; oil or electricity are better than gas, which acts as readily on bindings as it does on silver. In lieu of tarnishing, however, it affects their elasticity and pliable qualities.—N. Y. Times.

IVORY SOAP

IT FLOATS

Ivory Soap is used in the kitchen of Dining Cars, because the odor arising from a common soap in hot water is objectionable in a car. Is the odor any less objectionable in your house?

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO., CHICAGO.

THE PRESIDING ELDERSHIP. Obstacles and Encouragements.

Rev. B. C. Wentworth.

(In addition to the response of Rev. B. C. Wentworth, presiding elder of Bangor District, which appears in its proper place in the "Presiding Elders' Symposium" on page 2, he was moved to write the following expressive and pertinent lines.)

The inquisitive HERALD now wishes to know
What helps and what hinders the "elders,"
who go
Through New Hampshire, Vermont, Massa-
chusetts and Maine.
In the work of their districts, told simple and
plain.

Well, colleagues, sit down for our "Round
Table talk,"
Let's tell all the churches accustomed to balk,
And the preachers themselves who lay tribs in
our path,
How they cause us to weep and the devil to
laugh.

But where credit belongs to the pulpit or pew,
We will pay at sight—draft every penny that's
due;
For success on our districts does largely de-
pend
On the aid which the preachers and people may
lend.

Now, listen, ye readers of Zion's old sheet!
For nearly six years I've been pacing my beat
Through Athens, Mars Hill, and Corinth, and
such places,
Suggesting St. Paul, with his grit, gifts and
graces.

And I've queried if he had lived in our time,
And had been a P. E. on a district like mine,
If success on all lines would have crowned
every line.

And all difficult things to his mastery yield.
Would the churches today "lay by them in
store,"

And "give as God prospers," the same as of
yore?
Would benevolent streams their banks over-
flow?

As they did at Corinth when he preached long
ago?

Or would Paul change his views and adopt
modern plans
For supporting the cause, meeting social de-
mands

Through suppers called "crazy," "cobweb,"
and "blue J,"
And guess cakes, and fish-ponds, and women
to weigh;

Through parties named "donkey," the tall
and the bray
Being furnished by guests, as their part of the
play;

And so meet the church bills, and thus hold
the young,
By a combine of finance, religion and fun.

Could he look through a preacher and tell at a
glance
That he'd be a success, without taking a
chance?

In sending him forth to sow and to reap,
To feed the young lambs and shepherd the
sheep?

Could he weigh all his motives, and read all
his trails,
Such as zeal and discretion—his motor and
brakes—

See his gifts and his graces so charmingly
strung,
That "all things to all men" he will surely
"become?"

With Paul in our pulpits, not having a peer
As a holiness advocate, pungent and clear,
Teaching Christian perfection—the fullness of
love—

Would the church grasp the message as sent
from above?

Or call him a "crank," or say, "He is mad!"
He is "off of his base," and is airing a "fad!"
That one should be sanctified, now and entire—
Why we reach it by growth, at the time we
expire.

On this picture ideal the reader has light,
But the "elder" who's "got there" is not
yet in sight.

What "helps" and what "hinders," in reach-
ing this prize,
Can be plainly inferred by those who are wise.

Dexter, Maine.

The Conferences.

N. E. Southern Conference.

Norwich District.

The following minute was ordered at the
Preachers' Meeting held in Norwich, Feb. 18 and
19: "The Norwich District Ministerial Associa-
tion has heard with profound sorrow and re-
gret of the death of Rev. Arthur N. Searles at
Portland, Conn., a former member of this Asso-
ciation. He endeared himself to us all by his
pleasing manner, the richness and grace of his
Christian character, and his unwavering and un-
selfish devotion to the work to which he was
called of God."

Providence District.

In Washington special meetings have been
held, which resulted in securing a better local
sentiment for the church, an increase of in-
terest and activity of the membership, and in the
conversion of several persons. The pastor, Rev.
W. F. Gelsler, was assisted by Revs. Joseph
Jackson and J. H. Buckley, and Rev. Mr. Greene
of Hope. With renewed courage and zeal the
pastor and his people are pushing on the work,
looking for still greater results.

The fourth quarterly conference of the Haven
Church, East Providence, was one of unusual
interest. The various reports that were present-
ed showed that the church is enjoying a remark-
able degree of prosperity. The pastor, Rev.
L. G. Horton, is now finishing the fifth year of a
remarkably successful pastorate. During this
time he has baptized 114 persons, received into
the church from probation 114, by certificate 82,
while 30 now remain on probation, several of
whom will be received into full membership in
the church before Conference. Over \$4,000 have
been raised for liquidation of indebtedness, re-
pairing and improving property and purchasing
land for future use. A mortgage note of \$700
will be canceled this year. Every department
is in active operation. The Sunday-school has

increased 60 in its average attendance within the
last two years. The Epworth League, Junior
League, and Ladies' Aid Society are all doing
well the particular work for which they are or-
ganized. The membership of the church has
more than doubled. The missionary offerings
have trebled. The church has twice increased the
pastor's salary. The utmost harmony has pre-
vailed between the pastor and people during
the year. This is a very important field of
labor, and the outlook is the most promising
character. A committee was appointed to draw
up suitable resolutions appreciative of the ser-
vices of the retiring pastor.

At Hope St. Church, Providence, the pastor,
Rev. F. C. Barter, favored his people on Sunday
evening in the month of February with very
interesting addresses on the following subjects:
"That Good Man Outside the Church," "The
Seventh Commandment," "The Country Boy in
Bible and History." The attendance at these
services has been very good and the interest
commendable.

Rev. Dr. S. H. Day, formerly of our Con-
ference, but now of Montpelier, Vt., has been
greatly blessed in his work in pastorate whose
fifth year is now rapidly drawing to a close. A
very extensive revival, such as the community
has not had for thirty years, has attended his
efforts during this winter. Each year of his
pastorate has been a year of revival, but the last
has been the best of all. Over one hundred per-
sons have sought the Lord, and the church has
been greatly quickened and strengthened. The
influence of the meetings was felt in many of
the surrounding towns. On a recent Sunday
between fifty and sixty persons were received
into the church, and more are to follow. Many
of them were young men—a class in which the
pastor is much interested. This is a college
community, a most congenial atmosphere to Dr.
Day, many of the professors and students being
regular attendants upon his ministry. We most
cordially congratulate our old friend upon his
success in this delightful pastorate, and can but
lament the fact that a cast-iron rule—will ne-
cessitate his removal to another field.

At Wickford, on Sunday, Feb. 3, one person,
and on March 3, fifteen, were received on pro-
bation. This makes 30 thus received during the
year. Three, also, were baptized. Others are
expected to unite before long. This is one
result of the Christian Crusaders' meet-
ings held since the New Year be-
gan. The Baptists and Methodists worked to-
gether. About 130 were at the altar. The new
parsonage has had the addition of an ell, mak-
ing an excellent kitchen. Other alterations
have much improved the property, and it is ex-
pected it will be ready for occupancy next
month. Rev. W. D. Woodward, pastor.

A very interesting sub-district Epworth
League convention was held in the church at
Hope, Feb. 20.

After the devotional services, conducted by
Rev. J. H. Allen, an address of welcome was
given by the pastor, Rev. W. J. Kelley, to
which a response was made by the district pres-
ident, E. W. Thraasher. An hour with practical
methods followed. "In Spiritual Work" a pa-
per was presented by W. H. Myrick, of Phenix,
read by his daughter in his absence. "In Lit-
erary Work," Miss Clara French, of Attleboro,
the essay being read by Mrs. J. L. James. "In
Social Work," Miss M. E. Withington, of
Stoughton. "In Junior Work," Miss Eva Ben-
ton, of Providence. These papers were very
well prepared and suggested important ideas of
real practical value in League work.

In the evening a capital address was given by
Rev. E. F. Studley, of Providence, on "The
Triple Crown of Success." A vigorous and in-
spiring address was also made by Rev. W. S.
McIntire, of Providence, on "Incentives to
Christian Effort."

Excellent audiences were present both in the
afternoon and evening, and manifested much
interest in the proceedings. The hospitality of
the church was kindly and bountiful. Mr.
Thraasher, the district president, is working
most energetically to increase the interest and
efficiency of the Epworth League, and in all his
efforts is grandly sustained by the district cor-
responding secretary, Rev. E. F. Studley.

A grand mass meeting of the Epworth
Leagues of Providence and vicinity was held in
Trinity Church, Providence, Feb. 27. A testi-
mony meeting was led by Mrs. C. E. Hancock.
The pastor, Rev. J. M. Taber, presented most
cordial greetings to the visitors, causing all to
feel quite at home at the very outset. In the
absence of Rev. O. W. Scott, of Willimantic,
who was to speak on "A Symmetrical Epworth-
ian," Rev. M. C. Beale, of Boston, took his place
and discussed the same subject. "The Need of
the Hour" was the subject of the address of
Rev. E. M. Taylor, of Boston. The attendance
was large and the meeting was a very profitable
one.

The Providence District Ministerial Associa-
tion held its winter session with the Tabernacle
Church, Providence, Feb. 25 and 26. Essays
were presented as follows: Review of Kidd's
"Social Evolution," J. H. MacDonald; "The
Consolatory Functions of the Minister," H. B.
Cady; "The Bible in the Sermon," L. G. Hor-
ton; "Sacrament of the Lord's Supper," E. C.
Bass; "Additional Rights for Methodist Lay-
men," J. L. Pitner; "Pastors' Work among
Men," J. A. Rich; "The Poetry of
Matthew Arnold," R. B. Moore. These pa-
pers showed very careful preparation and
some of them indicated marked ability
on the part of their authors. In most
cases their presentation was followed by ani-
mated discussions in which many participated.
The sermons by G. E. Brightman and W. H. But-
ler were much appreciated and enjoyed by their
numerous auditors. Presiding Elder Benton re-
ported at the morning session on Tuesday that
the churches throughout the district are on the
whole doing good work, some of them having
engaged in revival services successfully.

The ladies provided a bountiful collation in
one of the lower halls of the spacious edifice.
The pastor, Rev. J. A. Root, and the families of
the church, did all in their power to make the
session of the Association an unusually pleasant
one to the very large number of preachers who
were in attendance.

On Tuesday afternoon a very interesting event
occurred in the presentation of a quilt to the
presiding elder, Mrs. F. J. Hollanabee, of the
Cranston Street Church, finding a debt on the
church, conceived the idea of paying off \$200 of
the same by getting forty of the churches on
the district to pay for each the privilege of
putting in a square containing a painting of
such design as they saw fit to introduce, with
the understanding that the money was to be
given to the Cranston Street Church, and the
quilt, when completed, was to be presented to
our popular presiding elder. It was a complete
success every way. The quilt was of very fine
serge, and on this black background the paint-
ings showed off with good effect. Deep black
lace was sewed to the edges, that being the fin-
ishing touch. In the centre of the quilt was a

painting of Bishop Asbury, from Asbury Mem-
orial Church. The Attleboro and Edgewood
churches gave pictures of their church edifices.
First Church, Newport, gave "Purgatory," and
Thames Street Church "The Old Stone Mill." The
Bristol Church was represented by a view of
Mount Hope, and the Nantasket Church by
Minot's Ledge Light-house. There was a great
variety of designs. Several floral pieces and a
few landscape views were presented. There
were 42 squares. It was a very beautiful piece
of work and was much admired. The presenta-
tion address, by Rev. J. M. Taber, was most fel-
icitous and appropriate. The presiding elder
responded in words eminently fitting, express-
ing his high appreciation of the gift and his
gratitude for the same.
X. X. X.

Vermont Conference.

St. Albans District.

Richford. — The Junior League gave a pleasant
social recently. Excellent and brief addresses
were made by the superintendent, F. W.
Wheeler, and Rev. Messrs. Peabody and J. H.
Wallace. Several recitations were given, and
over a hundred served with supper.

Miltonboro'. — Rev. L. O. Sherburne gave a
very interesting lecture on his trip to Cape Cod.

Westford. — This place has been the scene of a
great work this winter. In fact, ever since Rev.
C. M. Stebbins brought over the fire from Un-
derhill two years ago, the town has been steadily
progressing upward. The interest in the
Methodist Church has been deepening all the
time. In November and December, Miss Gates,
of Cambridge, held meetings and did personal
work, together with Rev. R. F. Lowe, the pas-
tor, the result being that about a dozen were
converted. Then followed, in January, the
Week of Prayer, which brought the three
churches into closer union than ever before.
About the middle of the month Rev. Mr. Fay,
of the Congregational Church, secured the ser-
vices of Mrs. Myers, an evangelist from New
York, and held meetings every afternoon and
evening for over three weeks. The Methodist
Church promptly joined in, and the result has
been that the whole town has received a won-
derful uplift towards God. Over thirty people
were converted during the stay of Mrs. Myers,
while the good to the churches, the pastors, and
the town generally, cannot be overestimated.

Morrisville. — Rev. R. L. Nanton lectures in
the People's Course, from his own experience,
on "Sights and Scenes in the Tropics."

Underhill. — Rev. H. F. Reynolds is seeking a
home in Burlington, as the centre of his evan-
gelistic work.

Suwanee. — The Sunday-school attendance
last year averaged 115. The total collection was
\$60. An exchange of about 140 volumes has
been effected, practically affording the school a
new library. Rev. G. L. Story, of Bakersfield,
spoke on the serious condition of the liquor
traffic in Franklin County, in the church vestry,
Monday evening. The object is the formation
of town temperance leagues. Revs. H. F. Rey-
nolds and A. E. Riggs are helping in revival
work.

Johnson. — Rev. W. P. Stanley, the pastor, as-
sisted by Rev. A. W. Ford, commenced a series of
meetings at this church during the Week of
Prayer. The meetings continued about two
weeks, during which time about fifty started
anew in the Christian life or were reclaimed.
After completing the work at Johnson, the pas-
tor and Mr. Ford went to Waterville for a cam-
paign. Mr. Ford was only able to stay a week
and a half, but the pastor continued the work
alone until it has proved to be the greatest re-
vival that Waterville has seen for more than
twenty-five years. More than one hundred
have either started for the first time or have
been reclaimed. Mr. Ford baptized 51 before
he left, and Rev. R. Nanton, of Morrisville,
baptized 23 more, making in all 74 who have
been baptized; and there are many others, some
of whom are waiting to be immersed in the
spring. The pastor recently took 10 on proba-
tion at Johnson, and there are yet others to fol-
low; and he has taken between 50 and 60 on
probation at Waterville, with others to join
later. The people at Waterville now desire a
resident pastor, and are hoping that the com-
ing Conference will send one.

Georgia. — Many attended the dedication
of the new church, which occurred on Feb. 20.
Rev. A. J. Hough preached a grand dedication
sermon from 2 Chron. 7: 15, 16. The assistants
in the services were Pastor Hulbert, Presiding
Elder Sherburne, Revs. O. M. Boutwell, S. S.
Brigham, Wm. C. Robinson, R. J. Chrystie,
A. B. Enright, G. W. H. Clark, and Revs. Chas.
Clark and Mr. Lorimer of the Congregational
and Baptist Churches respectively. All the
services, including the singing, led by Mr.
Pease, were exceedingly interesting. The debt
on the house—estimated to be worth \$4,500—
was \$204.25. Cash and pledges were taken to
the amount of \$225. Great credit is due the
building committee—C. A. Post, Mrs. P. A.

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with main audience-room. Haskell Searles, of
New York city, a former resident, who went
forth a poor boy, gave \$500, greatly helping the
practicability of the enterprise. Mrs. Clarissa
Evarts gave \$200. J. K. Curtis, through his
generosity and effort, raised the funds for a
suitable memorial window to Mr. and Mrs. Ed-
ward Martin. In the evening, Mr. Hough gave
his lecture on "A Country Parson" to a full
house. The church is well lighted by a Frink
reflector. The pastor is very happy over the en-
tire result, but desires to see the last dollar paid
and a powerful revival of pure and undefiled re-

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—faded cheeks—flab-
by muscles—poor
blood—you want

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The Family.

THE TUNING TIME.

Adelbert F. Caldwell.

"Only discords, harsh and grating,
Sounds to me this life of mine."
Ah! it is the Master's tuning
For the orchestra divine.

Kent's Hill, Me.

THE WIND OF MARCH.

Up from the sea the wild north wind is blowing
Under the sky's gray arch;
Smiling, I watch the shaken elm-boughs, know-
ing
It is the wind of March.

The stormy farewell of a passing season
Leaving, however rude
Or sad in painful recollection, reason
For reverent gratitude.

Welcome to weary hearts its harsh forewarning
Of light and warmth to come,
The longed-for joy of Nature's Easter morning,
The earth arisen in bloom!

In the loud tumult winter's strength is break-
ing;
I listen to the sound,
As to a voice of resurrection, waking
To life the dead, cold ground.

Between these gusts, to the soft lapse I hearken
Of rivulets on their way;
I see these tossed and naked tree-tops darken
With the fresh leaves of May.

This roar of storm, this sky so gray and lower-
ing,
Invite the airs of spring,
A warmer sunshine over fields of flowering,
The bluebird's song and wing.

Closely behind, the Gulf's warm breezes follow
This northern hurricane,
And, borne thereon, the bobolink and swallow
Shall visit us again.

And in green wood-paths, in the knee-fed past-
ure,
And by the whispering rills,
Shall flowers repeat the lesson of the Master,
Taught on His Syrian hills.

Blow, then, wild wind! thy roar shall end in
singing,
Thy chill in blossoming;
Come, like Bethesda's troubling angel, bringing
The healing of the spring.

— JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER, in *Independent*.

Thoughts for the Thoughtful.

Gold is but gloss,
And possessions are dross,
And gain is all loss
Without love.

— J. T. Trowbridge.

The kingdom of God is not going to religious meetings, and hearing strange religious experiences; the kingdom of God is doing what is right—living at peace with all men, being filled with joy in the Holy Ghost. — *Drummond*.

The soul that trifles and toys with self-sacrifice never can get its true joy and power. Only the soul that, with an overwhelming impulse and a perfect trust, gives itself up forever to the life of other men, finds the delight and peace which such complete self-surrender has to give. — *Phillips Brooks*.

Trials are no more evils than temptation is sin. Sorrow, pain, struggle, conflict, shame, self-loathing, all these and the myriad other forms of pain through which God's children must pass, are simply signs of some special disease being at work in our spiritual constitutions. They tell us that something is wrong with the eternal life within us: that it is being starved or impeded in its circulation, or enfeebled in some way or other. Happy are they who know what these sorrows are. I don't believe that any Christian soul ever travels for any length of time along a smooth path of flowers. I distrust the experience of any soul whose current of Christian life flows smooth and even, never broken by rough rocks which obstruct its course. I would not choose for myself, or for any one, a spiritual life free from doubts and fears, nay, from "strong crying and tears." God help those souls that are "at ease in Zion." — *Rev. P. H. NEWHAM, in "The All-Father."*

The curtain of the dark
Is pierced by many a rent;
Out of the star-wells, spark on spark
Trickles through night's torn tent.

Grief is a tattered tent
Where through God's light does shine;
Who glances up, at every rent
Shall catch a ray divine.

— *Lucy Larcom.*

One spoke the other day of the surprises of a great sorrow which had just been passed through. It was all surprises—for it was the first sorrow—but strangest of all was the surprise of grace that came to brighten the darkness and to fill the loneliness with love. Some of it came through human affection—friends had brought wondrous warmth and tenderness. "We never knew we had so many friends until our bereavement came." Some of it came through words of divine comfort which had been read or heard a hundred times before, but which now, in the darkness, for the first time revealed their precious meaning. But besides these, and most wonderful of all, there came a strange blessing of heavenly

peace, which seemed to fill the bereft hearts as with an unseen presence of love, pouring itself through all the home as a holy fragrance. Thus it is that they who wait on the Lord have their strength renewed in every need, in every sorrow. — *S. S. Times*.

A long succession of stormy Sabbaths has crippled innumerable churches. Light-houses veiled by the snow on many a coast have failed to warn off from the rocks the doomed frigate. Tens of thousands of Christians of nervous temperament by the depression of a snowy day almost despair of reaching heaven. Yet, in that style of weather Benajah achieved his most celebrated victory; and let us by the grace of God become victors over influences atmospheric. If we are happy only when the wind blows from the clear northwest, and the thermometer is above freezing point, and the sky is an inverted blue cup of sunshine poured all over us, it is a religion ninety-five per cent. off. Thank God there are Christians who, though their whole life through sickness has been a snowy day, have killed every lion of despondency that dared to put its cruel paw against their suffering pillow. It was a snowy day when the Pilgrim Fathers set foot, not on a bank of flowers, but on the cold New England rock, and from a ship that might have been more appropriately called after a December hurricane than after a "Mayflower," they took possession of this great continent. And amid more chilly worldly circumstances many a good man or a good woman has taken possession of a whole continent of spiritual satisfaction, valleys of peace, and rivers of gladness, and mountains of joy. Christ landed in our world not in the month of May, but in the stormy month of December, to show us that we might have Christ in winter weather, and on a snowy day. — *T. De Witt Talmage*.

Professions and Occupations For Women.

I.

SHORTHAND.

Miss Nellie S. Hardy.

Young Ladies' School of Shorthand.

WHEN I began the study of shorthand about eight years ago, it was quite an unusual thing for a girl to do. Since very early times the art had been practiced to a certain extent, and in later days had been utilized in the taking of speeches and sermons, in law work and for private use; but for women to acquire a knowledge of the study as a means of earning a livelihood, was a rare occurrence. At the time I thought of learning this art, it was a great question with me as to the advisability of such a course with a view to becoming independent in the walks of life. At one of the largest and best-known colleges of our city the class consisted of but two or three beginners, and they were young ladies. This department has steadily increased until it now numbers about 125 each year.

It really seemed as if, in the case of shorthand practice, the supply regulated the demand instead of the demand the supply, so many entered the schools and colleges before it was generally known that there was such a promising field for the lady shorthand writer. In some instances, when it was known by one business house that another employed a young lady to assist with the fast-increasing correspondence, the members of the firm, whose duty it was to conduct that part of the business, suddenly felt the irksomeness of the situation, and determined to place part of the burden upon the shoulders of an amanuensis.

In other cases, it was discovered by the careworn letter-writers that these duties must be thrown off into other hands, and in seeking relief the competent lady shorthand pupil was given a trial, and in most cases thankfully given a place in the office.

Girls have generally been preferred to men in later years for many reasons. One of these reasons may have been the novelty of the idea. To some men it has seemed a bit of sunshine in the sterner aspect of the office or counting-room, to see every day at her post before her desk a neatly-attired, modest and attractive young lady, who in an unobtrusive yet skillful manner would despatch the forbidding pile of unanswered letters, in many cases supplying an unready word or sentence, and in the course of time becoming competent to reply to some communications with no aid from her employer.

Then, again, women can live on lower salaries than men, more especially those who have no family to support, although many women rise to the attainment of salaries equal to those received by men; in fact, it has been my experience that, if really competent and invaluable in her services to her employer, a woman may demand and obtain almost any remuneration for her work within the bounds of reason.

It has been said that girls are inclined to be more painstaking and correct in their work than men, and will more patiently

plod along from day to day in the often tiresome routine of their ordinary work. Perhaps, too, the employer will feel that he can call upon them to assist in the details of work that might seem trivial to the masculine clerk. Possibly the desire to command is taken with a meeker spirit by the gentler sex. Whatever may be the manifold reasons for the seeming preference for the lady stenographer, the experience of the past few years proves that they have more than held their own in the competition for positions as amanuenses.

When a girl leaves school, if she has decided that she will not enter college and has completed that part of her education, the question arises, "How can I best become self-supporting?" There are so many avenues open to women at the present day that it is rather a difficult problem to solve. One's tastes and inclinations are called into service to assist in this decision. If a girl has a taste for correspondence and literary work of any kind, she is soon attracted to the field of shorthand. The advantages are many. It takes a shorter time to acquire and become proficient in this art—for art it is—than in any other department. To become a fine musician, an acknowledged artist, or a successful linguist, requires years of patient devotion to toil, while in shorthand one can do excellent work in six months, and in one or two years can undertake court reporting or verbatim reporting of any kind.

Again, there are no outside duties connected with the life of a stenographer. She is at her desk at 9 o'clock in the morning, works busily till noon, has her hour for lunch and recreation, returns to her duties, and at five or half-past closes her desk for the day, and thinks no more of toil or task till the following day. How different her life from that of the weary school teacher, with her huge pile of written papers to be corrected before the next day or week, and the several lessons to be carefully read over before appearing in the class-room on the morrow!

Much more might be said about the desirability of the study of shorthand for girls. It is an attractive study in itself—in many respects resembling one of the foreign languages—and it throws one into pleasant companionship while engaged in the study, for the class of girls who take it are usually high or grammar school graduates, and come from our best homes. It can be said with truth that the atmosphere of the whole shorthand world is an inspiring and uplifting one.

I will just touch upon an objection that has been raised to the idea of a girl's becoming a shorthand writer. It is said that she is exposed to temptations in the business world that she would not meet elsewhere. To a degree this is true; but if a girl understands that she is expected to confine her efforts strictly to the tasks assigned her, to regard her employer as one whom she is to assist in his labors, and not as a friend, if she realizes that she is regarded as a lady and as a model of goodness and gentleness, there is rarely an occasion for doubt in this direction. It need hardly be suggested that much depends upon the deportment of the girl herself.

To sum up these few thoughts, I would add that the time-worn proverb, "There is always room at the top," may be applied in a peculiar sense to the world of shorthand. Surely no man or woman need ever complain of the want of occupation who has a complete mastery of the English language in the written language of shorthand; and to wield the power to write the spoken word, uttered in any profession or calling, is indeed an enviable possession.

If a girl wishes to become a typewrist exclusively, and to do nothing in the shorthand field, much less time and money are required for preparation. But one must form habits of extreme correctness and neatness, for nothing else is tolerated in this line of work. No alterations or erasures would be permitted, and if one has a quantity of manuscript to copy in a limited amount of time, much watchful care must be exerted, together with the necessary speed put forth to accomplish the desired end. This makes a great demand upon the strength of the operator, and as the work is apt to be very irregular, sometimes accumulating in such a quantity as to necessitate long hours and constant application, and again occupying but a few hours of a long day, it is not nearly as satisfactory an occupation as the two studies—shorthand and typewriting—taken together. Then one can turn from shorthand notes to machine, and from machine to note-book, making a pleasant variety and avoiding monotony in one's work.

In certain lines of typewriting much elaborate and painstaking work in the way of

tabulation must be done; and if one has experience in this direction, and knows of the wearisome toll it entails, I imagine she would gladly spend more time and money in acquiring a knowledge of shorthand, which imbues one with a feeling of freedom when compared with the life of slavery to which a typewriter is often condemned.

Wesleyan Building, Boston, Mass.

About Women.

— At the Woman's National Council recently in session in Washington, Mary Lowe Dickinson, of New York city, was elected president for the ensuing three years; Rev. Anna H. Shaw, of Philadelphia, vice-president; Louise B. Robbins, of Michigan, corresponding secretary; Hannah J. Bailey, of Maine, treasurer; Amaline B. Cheney, of Maine, first recording secretary; Helen Bristol, of Quincy, Ill., second recording secretary.

— Miss Susan B. Anthony was given a banquet at the Ebbitt House, Washington, D. C., on her 75th birthday, which occurred Feb. 15. Covers were laid for forty-five. The room was decorated with palms and ferns, and there was a handsome centre-piece of roses on the table—a tribute from Washington suffragists. Miss Anthony was presented with a substantial token of good-will in the form of an annuity of \$800 a year, purchased for her by her friends.

— Miss Florence Nightingale, at the age of seventy-four, is enjoying excellent health. She is a rich woman, having, besides some private means, the £30,000 publicly subscribed for her by the English people at the close of the Crimean War. Quite recently she confided to a friend her intention to settle the money as a trust, the interest to be devoted to nursing wounded soldiers, should her country ever again be engaged in a war with a European power.

— Bishop Potter's daughters were all educated with a view to doing at least one thing well. One girl became an expert pianist, another an artist, and a third has trained herself to the duties of secretary. She not only answers her busy father's letters, but receives callers, answers all questions, which pour in by the hundred to a man in his position, arranges appointments, and fulfills all the duties of an expert office woman, relieving her father from much care.

— Miss Bilgrami, of Hyderabad, the first Mohammedan girl to try a university examination, has passed the first examination in arts at the Madras University with honors in Arabic. Not being allowed to leave the senana, she pursued her studies by herself under great difficulties, as she could not attend college lectures. She took her examination in a girls' school under the eye of the head mistress.

MAKING A NEGATIVE.

DID you ever see the negative from which a photograph is printed? However beautiful the finished picture may be, your first feeling is one of surprised disappointment when you look at the negative.

If you are a skilled photographer and examine it with the full knowledge of the successful results that will be attained in a print, then you may find much to call forth your admiration, but without this knowledge the negative will look to you like a failure.

Where the high lights will appear in the photograph, there are dark shadows in the negatives; all that will be white upon the paper is black now, and the right appears upon the left. It is, as its name implies, a negative.

Yet it is from the negative plate that the positive print is made. If a plate is so over exposed that a too prolonged impression is made upon it, then the prints become negative; direction, lights and shadows all reversed. The negative plate is the one that produces the best work; the one that produces positive results.

Is there not a lesson for us in this? If our lives are negatives, if, apparently, sunshine is reversed into shadow, and they seem like failures, let us not call them failures, but remember that work is possible that a life full of positive blessings might never accomplish.

Do you know how a print is made? The photographer fastens a sheet of sensitized paper against the negative, and then places it in the sun, so that the light, shining through the negative, prints the picture upon the paper, a perfect positive, lights and shadows where they should be.

Just so we may make of the dark places in our own lives, added brightness in the hearts of those with whom we are brought in contact. If the negative and paper were left in the dark, no print could be made, but the sunshine enables the negative to do its work.

God's love shining through our lives will enable us to make many a fair impression upon the hearts of others. If any disappointment, any sorrow or crushed hope, has darkened our own lives when we would have had the high light of fulfilled joys, then we are better fitted by our sympathies to shed just the happiness upon others that we have missed.

If we have struggled along under burdens that might have been wondrously lightened by the touch of love, let us see to it that no one beside us ever lingers in vain for sympathy.

If some tender relationship that meant the very crown of earthly joy to us has been severed, then let us do what we can to make more perfect and beautiful that relationship in others.

If across our lives the long shadow of a lifetime heartache must fall, let us endeavor to make sunshine for some other heart.

It is the negative which makes the positive. Let us count ours an honored life if it is a negative, and if through the shadows of our sorrows the high light of joy falls upon other hearts. — *Mrs. GEORGE A. PAUL, in Churchman.*

HOUSE DECORATION.

Elizabeth Varian Starr.

SHE was an ingenious little woman, with a good deal of practical common sense. She had been a "school-marm" before she married John, a rather briefless barrister, and took upon herself the responsibility of home-making. But they had both lived in boarding-houses so long—in fact, that was where her big brown eyes first attracted his attention—that the very name of "home" had a cheery, comforting sound to them, even if it was to be conducted in a very modest fashion on a slender income.

The house was a very pretty Queen Anne affair on the outskirts of the city, for which they paid the sum of \$20 a month—not such a great extravagance when you consider the little garden, the few shrubs and fruit-trees, that went with it. But there was the furnishing of it! Even the necessary tables and chairs, cooking utensils and china, had a peculiar way of adding up the price list, until the luxuries of bric-a-brac and etchings were hardly to be dreamed of. But they could come later on when John ceased to be a struggling young attorney—for of course every bride looks forward to a day of pecuniary success; and meantime the home should be made as inviting and pretty as possible without the luxuries.

But when the little bride received one letter after another announcing the intention of John's sister, John's aunt, and her own cousin, "to make a little visit, Dora, my dear; John writes you are so pleasantly situated," she was rather overwhelmed for a moment. Of course they would come at separate and stated periods, but there was the spare bed-chamber wholly unfurnished for the reception of guests save for the "set," which had been rather an encumbrance on John's hands after the furnishings of the old homestead had been divided among the children. It was antiquated in design and finish, but John hated to part with it, for the sake of "old lang syne," so it was placed in the spare chamber.

Well, that certainly was a foundation, though not such a one as the little bride might have wished; and so with a large amount of ingenuity and a few dollars, she set out to make her guest chamber habitable. The set had been painted a billous yellow, ornamented with roses of magenta hue, but a can of ready-mixed cream-colored paint and ten cents' worth of gilding transformed the common furniture into a dainty set of white and gold.

The walls were then papered with plain paper of a faint olive tint at fifteen cents a roll. Instead of expensive bordering, wall paper with delicate blue and pink figures on a ground that harmonized perfectly with the paper, was used.

The floor came next in the order of revolution. Half enough matting to go round the outer edge of the room was bought. It had a little olive in the figure and was decidedly pretty and quite inexpensive. This was cut in half, lengthwise, and the cut edge pushed up close under the baseboard, and lo! a border half a yard deep of matting around the room. For the remainder of the floor there was a rug of finely cut white rag woven in "chinchilla weave." The warp was of olive and blue, and the effect was a square of white woven with blue, and the next woven with olive, giving a checker-board pattern. It was woven 1 1/4 yards wide, so as to have but one seam, and could be ripped apart and washed when soiled.

The curtains were Swiss, with gold-colored dots. A pet engraving and a good artotype furnished the walls with pictures. A rocking-chair and a packing-box, with hinged cover, being first well padded, were covered with crinkled senesucker at five cents a yard. The blue stripe in it was of a delicate shade. Two large square pillows were covered with the same, and when it was finished the packing-box certainly made an inviting couch on which any number of "cousins, uncles and aunts" might seek repose. An old-fashioned, spindle-legged, straight-backed chair was treated to a new dress of white and gold; and a little stand was made of three broomsticks, painted in cream, securely fastened together, with a plebeian cheese-box cover for the top, covered with cream satine feather-stitched in gold silk. Thus the guest chamber was complete—in white and gold.

On the day appointed for the arrival of the first guest, the little bride placed a gold-colored bowl filled with great ox-eyed daisies upon the stand, brought to bear a shadowy light by the adjustment of draperies and blinds, and awaited results.

The result was a great surprise to John, for he only knew that something mysterious had been going on "behind closed doors" during his absence in the city; and Aunt Martha was so pleased with everything, and so heartily approving of John's choice, that she contemplates leaving them a generous legacy. So much for practical common sense.

Flowers? Of course. They are no more a luxury than sugar or cream, olives or jelly, or a hundred other delicacies you have grown to consider necessities. Certainly you could do without them; but how much a few blushing roses, a bit of fragrant mignonette, or some pink and white carnations, brighten up the dark room on the bleakest of bleak days! Do without the rather unnecessary new gown, that you may be able to provide them. There is no place where flowers wield a stronger influence than in the home; so, if you cannot decorate lavishly, do not refuse to decorate modestly. To keep flowers fresh, cut off a little of the stems each day and drop a bit of charcoal into the water.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

DAILY LIFE.

Are you watching for the Master
Day by day?
As each golden morn is breaking
Does the thought your spirit cheer—
Maybe ere the day is over
He'll appear?

Are you walking with your Master
Day by day?
Simply walking on with Jesus,
Trusting Him for one step more;
Thankful that He veils the future
Yet in store?

Are you working for the Master
Day by day?
Are you gathering in some lost ones,
Following in the Saviour's track,
Till the Keeper of the vineyard
Cometh back?

Go on watching, waiting, working,
Day by day,
In the little time that's left you,
Even though the way be dark,
Press still onward, upward, heavenward,
Toward the mark.

—MAUD BUSENELL, in *The Christian*.

THE SADDEST THING.

Rev. R. H. Howard.

WHAT is the saddest thing, my reader, you can think of—the most pathetic or affecting aspect of human life of which you can conceive? "Well," says one, "it is, perhaps, when two persons who have sincerely loved and have been joined in the holiest of bonds, who have for years walked side by side in all the sweet intimacies of loving companionship and delightful home-life, who, it may be, have had children over whom they have mutually smiled and wept—it is when these, afterwards, because of some unhappy misunderstanding, or through the intervention of some fell sin, become estranged, turn aside from each other, and go each his separate and lonely way."

This is indeed sad—a dream, alas! too often realized in this our fallen world, and pathetic enough, truly, for the very angels to weep over. The loss of Paradise was bad enough, but as long as the guilty pair clung to each other—believed in and stood by one another—alike in innocence and in sin, in prosperity and in disaster, all was not lost. But when, through the wear and tear of earth's trials, or the stress of some great temptation, affection withers, and souls that have stood through many a night of storm become alienated, and by and by fall hopelessly asunder, no wonder the faces turned thenceforward toward the future are faces of stony despair, and that pitying humanity looks on with an unfeigned and silent grief!

And yet there is to my mind a still sadder thing, a more mournful spectacle, if possible, than this even. It is when a mother has brought forth her child, has nursed it on her bosom, and caressed and carried it for long and weary months in her arms; has been fond of it as her babe, and proud of it as her boy; has watched by its bedside through many a sleepless night of anxiety and distress; has bent in agonizing prayer over it, that, in sickness, God would give health, and that, amid all coming temptations, He would keep her baby pure; has rocked him to sleep, oh, so many, many times, by night and by day, and especially as the evening shadows have gathered round her home, so sweetly, tenderly, crooning some dear old cradle song,—

"Hush, my babe, lie still and slumber,
Angels guard thee in thy bed,"

—it is, I say, when, after all this, after nameless and unwearied self-denials, she has succeeded in rearing this child from cradled nothingness to manly power, the latter, by disobedience, dissipation, cruelty, neglect or brutal vice, disappoints and grieves that mother; when, by setting at naught her counsels, disregarding, and it may be defying, her wishes, trampling upon her prayers and scorning her tears, that boy crushes that true and loving heart, and brings down that faithful, devoted mother's gray hairs at last in sorrow to the grave.

Reader, is not this by far of all things the saddest?

Newton Lower Falls, Mass.

NEEDLESS SACRIFICES.

THERE are sacrifices enough in this world, sacrifices which must be made and which involve what suffering they may, yet bring in their sweet following "afterward" a recompense of reward. But, also, there are sacrifices—some larger, some smaller—which women offer up on various altars, and they amount in the end only in heartache and disappointment, having done nothing by way of good to anybody concerned. I sometimes think that we women need to be warned over and over against our constitutional tendency to unnecessary and uncalled-for sacrifice. Not long ago I heard a case in point. It is only one of many, but as an illustration it will serve my purpose here.

Away in a Western village, on the edge of a

prairie, a sweet girl lived in the home she and her mother shared with her two bachelor uncles and her grandmother. The family were well-to-do, with ample fields and well-stocked barns. Every one was in perfect health, there was no cloud of any sort on the domestic horizon, when, one bright day, the thing that happens in many young lives happened in Mary's. A young man, suitable in age, social position and Christian character, fell in love with her, courted her assiduously, and received her promise to be his wife.

Thus far no obstacle had intervened to prevent the two lives which had apparently grown up from childhood to complement each other from uniting and fulfilling their destiny. An unexpected one was presently raised in the opposition of the mother and one of the uncles to the wedding—an opposition as unreasonable as it was surprising.

"There is no occasion for Mary to marry for several years," said the mother. "She is well situated as she is, and her life is so easy and so sheltered that I cannot consent to her undertaking one which will probably be harder."

"She is the only young creature about the house," added Uncle Ben, "and we cannot spare her. Besides, her marriage would entail a good deal of extra expense. Luella [her mother] would have to keep hired help if Mary went away, while Mary and she get on smoothly together. The thing is not to be thought of for a long time. Of course the young people may be engaged if they choose."

Selfish as these special pleadings were, they sufficed to induce the delay of Mary's marriage to John for twelve long years. Each remained faithful to the other, but Mary's old people steadily grew older and more "set" in their ways. Mary herself lost much of her girlish charm. John gradually hardened and became cynical and morose, and the freshness and spontaneity of the early love were dissipated in the long strain of the slow and disappointing course of a foolishly protracted betrothal.

It came to pass that one day last summer John tied his horse to the gate-post and walked up the path to the side door with the step of a man who had arrived at a resolution not to be trifled with. Mary was, as usual, busy about her work. The old grandmother sat at the window knitting as she had been knitting, probably, when John's first wooing began. I don't know where the mother was nor the uncles at the moment, but John wasted no words.

"Take me or leave me, Mary," he said. "Either step into that phaeton, drive to the minister's with me and marry me this morning, or give me up forever."

The look in his face was like the glow in a smoldering furnace. Mary hesitated.

"Mother"—she began.

"It has come to this," interrupted John, firmly, "that you must choose between your mother and your husband. It's take me or leave me—today."

"Mary!"

It was the grandmother who spoke, her voice quivering and high-pitched, but earnest and still sweet in its cadence.

"Mary, John has the right of it. Put your bonnet on and go with him. I never approved of this putting him off, myself, and I wish he hadn't stood it so long. It's been a sacrifice that nobody's ever appreciated, the whole of it."

And Mary went. What fullness of blessing may still be for her and for John remains to be seen, but this is evident—they have lost the first beautiful springtime of their days, they have known the taste of hope deferred, they have done, in haste and without dignity, that which should have been worthily and appropriately done years ago. The beautiful bridal, the gradual adaptation of the two young hearts to one another, the place of the new family in the community, were sacrificed, one and all, to maternal caprice and avuncular avarice.

Long engagements are often inevitable. On the one hand the prospective husband may have kindred dependent upon him, or an inheritance of debts which must be paid, or his way to make in the world. The future wife may not throw aside a duty to an ailing mother, or to children, younger brothers and sisters whom she must educate. Circumstances are sometimes relentless. As a rule, however, long engagements are a great mistake, and when due to the feminine disposition to indulge in needless sacrifice, they are almost criminal. —MARGARET E. SANGSTER, in *Congregationalist*.

A LITTLE TRAVELER.

A PALE little lad in a west-bound train glanced wistfully toward a seat where a mother and her merry children were eating lunch. The tears gathered in his eyes, though he tried to keep them back. A passenger came and stood beside him.

"What's the trouble?" he asked. "Have you no lunch?"

"Yes, I have a little left, and I'm not so awful hungry."

"What is it, then? Tell me; perhaps I can help you."

"It's—it's so lonely, and there's such a lot of them over there, and—and they've got their mother."

The young man glanced at the black band on the boy's hat. "Ah!" he said, gently, "and you have lost yours."

"Yes, and I'm going to my uncle; but I've never seen him. A kind lady, the doctor's wife, who put up my lunch, hung this card to my neck. She told me to show it to the ladies

on the car, and they would be kind to me; but I didn't show it to any one yet. You may read it if you like."

The young man raised the card and read the name and address of the boy. Below were the words:—

"And whosoever shall give drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

The reader brushed his hand across his eyes and was silent for a moment. Then, "I'll come back very soon," he said, and made his way to the mother and her children.

And presently little George felt a pair of loving arms about him, and a woman's voice, half sobbing, calling him a poor, dear little fellow, begged him to come with her to her children. And for the rest of that journey, at least, motherless George had no lack of "mothering." —*New York Tribune*.

Little Folks.

THE DIFFERENCE.

When the winds of winter beat
Little Bunny's hollow tree,
For a blanket round his feet
Close his bushy tail tucks he.
Never mind how loud the storm,
Sound he sleeps and snug and warm.

When the little honey-bees
See the snow come powdering down
On their roof beneath the trees
In the pleasant Beehive Town,
Then away to bed they creep,
All the winter long they sleep.

But when little busy Ned
Hears the noisy north wind blow,
Out he rushes with his sled,
For he loves the whirling snow.
Bees and bunnies, sleepy things!
Lose the fun that winter brings!

—*Youth's Companion*.

HOW KATIE WAS FOUND OUT.

GRANDPA came slowly down the back stairway into the kitchen, where Katie sat eating an apple, and trying to look as if she had never done any mischief in all her life. He came directly toward her, and sitting down in his rocking-chair, drew her up to him and patted her hair lovingly, while he looked rather seriously into her blue eyes.

"This morning," he said, "a little girl went up to my room, where her mother had forbidden her to go, climbed up at the foot of my bed, holding on by the tall bedposts, and walked all the way up to the head; then she reached up to my watch and took it off the nail, and sitting down on my pillow looked at the watch as long as she wished. Having done that, she walked carefully down to the foot of the bed and jumped off, thinking that nobody saw her."

"Who did see me?" asked Katie, letting out the guilty secret.

"Please get me the Bible, my dear, and I will tell you."

Katie stood quietly by while her grandpa put on his spectacles, and slowly turned over the leaves till he found what he wanted.

"Read that, my dear."

But Katie could only spell out the words, and so it took her some time to make it out. After two or three trials she succeeded in reading distinctly, "Thou God seest me."

Then grandpa talked very seriously with her about the sin of disobedience and the guilt of covering a sin, and Katie was very penitent, and resolved then and there to be a better girl. She looked at grandpa with great awe.

"God told him," she said to herself. "Oh, how dreadful to have God look right at me, and then tell grandpa, all alone in his room, what I did! How good grandpa must be to have God talk with him. Seems to me his face shines just like Moses' when he came down from the mount."

"Did you take off your shoes, grandpa?"

"My shoes? What for, my dear? What do you mean?"

"When God talked with you upstairs, and told you I walked on your bed, did you take off your shoes, like Moses?"

"Oh, my dear little girl," said grandpa, with rather a queer expression on his face, "God does not nowadays talk to His children face to face, but He leads and directs them just as truly as He did in the time of Moses. I think He led me to my room this morning, and to see on my soft feather bed the deep footprints that you left there; and then seeing my pillow that your mother had smoothed so carefully, all tumbled and wrinkled, and observing as I did your little mistake in hanging my watch with its face to the wall, I could not help knowing what you had done."

Now, grandpa's face was very serious. "There is one verse in God's Word, my little Katie, that it would be well for little girls and boys—and grown-up men and women, too—to remember: 'Be sure your sin will find you out.'"

And I don't think Katie ever forgot it. —*Zion's Watchman*.

Editorial.

THE FOIBLES OF THE SAINTS.

THE imperfections of good people are a great comfort to us. We complain of them, to be sure, but how could we, who dwell in houses of clay, get on without them? How could we endure to live in a world of perfect people? The fact would dishearten and crush us. The sense of our own deficiencies would be unendurable. We could never hope to enter the kingdom of heaven.

But the situation is now quite otherwise. In our struggles against our own weaknesses and deficiencies, our haltings and slippings, we see other good people of like passions with ourselves, who obtain divine favor and pass, as we believe, to the skies. We are ready then to believe there is hope for ourselves. The Lord, who has saved so many poor specimens of humanity, will not forget us. If He is able to get on for a lifetime with such people, we ought to be able to tolerate them occasionally, especially when He keeps them on exhibition for our encouragement. Stop and think what a world this would be for us if we were the only imperfect people in it! We should want to get out of it as soon as possible. As it is, we come to like it and are in no hurry to get away. We have entered into some goodly fellowships, all of them with these defective people.

BE OF GOOD HOPE.

A FAMOUS Scottish divine said in a recent lecture that preachers do not preach enough about the Christian virtue of hope. Faith and love receive their due emphasis in pulpit teaching, but hope is sadly neglected. That neglect is no doubt responsible to some degree for the subtle spirit of pessimism now diffusing itself through Christian thought, speech and activity. Other factors enter largely into the mood, such as the strain of living under high tension, the perplexing problems of a transition period in theology, and the pressure of an ever-enlarging conflict with the hydra-headed monster of evil. But these factors would be minimized in magnitude and influence did ministers of the Gospel peal out more frequently the silver chimes of hope for their weary and discouraged hearers. Hope always brightens and strengthens. The living hope of Christianity has ever kept the stars burning in the darkest night, and carried new vigor to workers bowed down with oppressive burdens.

Hope is represented in Christian art as a maiden beautiful and buoyant, standing on a ship, with her face upturned, and her hand resting on an anchor by her side. Round about her the winds howl and the waves leap in anger, but she is calm and unmoved. The upward look and the anchor by her side explain the secret of a happiness no storm can drive away. Such a peaceful joy ought to be the possession of every Christian who can say, "Thou art my hope, O Lord!" for he has a hope which is as "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." The life anchored to the immutable promises of God can view with serene confidence all the storms which threaten the prosperity of the church or personal happiness.

An outlook on the state of the world depends largely on the point of vision. The despairing Christian sees what causes his heart to sink within him and his tongue to bewail the evil tendencies of the time in which his lot has fallen; the hopeful Christian sees what enables him to thank God and take courage. Faith in the power of the cross, in the ultimate triumph of goodness, and in the coming of Him whose right it is to reign, would silence the croakings of despair too often heard from lips which call Christ Lord. They would also call forth jubilant gratitude for the signs of progress to be seen in a comparison of the state of matters in the closing years of our century with that which obtained in the opening years. It is a striking fact, and one for which we cannot be too thankful, that an enormous leap has been made in the accessions to Christ's kingdom during the last hundred years. Careful statistics show that, whereas in the year 1800 there were throughout the world 174,000,000 professing Christians, there are now 450,000,000 who worship Jesus as their Saviour and King. The single fact that during our century the number of Christians has been more than doubled, ought to banish pessimistic fears about the progress of Christianity, and fill

effort with the sunshine and triumph and expectation of hope. The marked advance in right sentiment and social reform is also full of encouragement. One hundred years ago it was considered unbecoming for a gentleman to rise from the dinner table sober. In Scotland, the country of John Knox and the Covenanters, a boy was employed at festive gatherings to loosen the neckties of guests who sank from their chairs to the floor under the spell of intoxication, so that they might slumber without running the risk of suffocation. All that is changed now. What was then considered eminently respectable is now condemned as conduct unworthy of any person laying claim to the slightest spark of manhood. A few moments' reflection will call to mind other cheering features in the progress of society which ought to fill one with thankfulness for what has been done and with hope for what will yet be done in the name and by the power of Jesus Christ, who is the Saviour of society because He is the Saviour of the individuals who constitute society.

Hope spans the unknown future of personal life with the rainbow of optimism. Whatever lies ahead of us is seen and provided for by the Father without whose knowledge not even a sparrow falls to the ground. Suffering, disappointment and bereavement may be woven into a cross for us during this year, but faith teaches that behind the cross is love unutterable and wisdom most perfect working out a more eternal weight of glory. Hope strengthens faith with such radiant visions of all things working together for good that even in the darkest days and most trying experiences we run the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured His cross. The hope that strengthened the Master will strengthen the disciple also.

ON THE SHORES OF JAMAICA.

II.

WE reach Port Antonio Thursday morning, about 1 o'clock, Feb. 21. Looking out into the darkness from our port-hole, we see the flash of the firefly—an object that would have seemed decidedly out of place in New England at this season. As we stepped from the boat, glad indeed were we to put our feet down upon solid earth again. It was quite dark, and we gave ourselves into the hands of our landlord, who came with his carriage to escort us to our hostelry. With eager desire to behold this new land, we waited for day to dawn, when it revealed a vision of surprising and surpassing beauty. Our inn was situated upon an elevation near to, and overlooking, the sea. In front of us was an island some half-mile in length, and half as wide, covered with tropical verdure. At the left was a large bay skirted by low houses painted white, and by larger buildings used for business purposes. Upon the right was the light-house which warns the mariner of the precipitous shores that lie all about it. Immediately back of us and all around were mountains. Jamaica is constituted of continuous and consecutive ranges of mountains crowned with tropical trees and fruits. Away on the highest summit, standing solitary and alone, a palm tree was seen lifting its majestic fronds high into the air as if "monarch of all it surveyed." We never saw a more surprisingly beautiful scene than that upon which we so enthusiastically gazed in that first hour of daylight upon the island. Between us and the sea rose the cocoanut palm trees, forty to seventy feet in height, with smooth, straight trunks upon which grow no limbs until near the top the fronds spring out, with great bunches of the growing nuts beneath. The cultivated cocoanut tree does not grow nearly as high—not more than from twelve to twenty feet. A friend points out to us, as we sit in front of the hotel, the growing banana, the mango, the cottonwood, the logwood, the bamboo, the breadfruit (which grows a fruit largely used by the natives as a substitute for bread), the lemon and the orange, the custard apple, the acacia, the lime, and the oleander bush, with a charming variety of crotons and other plants.

We learn after breakfast that the Wesleyan minister lives near by, and we call upon him. He gives us a fraternal welcome and replies with great frankness and kindness to our numberless inquiries. Rev. William John Williams is an Englishman of about forty years, living in a comfortable, one-story parsonage. He has one church and six out-appointments. His people are natives with the exception of one or two families. His congregations at Port Antonio average some four hundred, and it is unusual to see more than two or three white faces, and often there are none. His church is a humble but quite spacious brick structure. He receives £180 per year salary and the parsonage. There is no time limit to the ministry of his Conference, but they can remain as long as desired and the other demands of the general work will permit. To our inquiry: "What is the greatest infirmity of your people?" he answered immediately, "Unchastity." And then he informed us that for ten years sixty per cent. of

the births of children upon the island had been illegitimate.

We leave him to take our first walk through the streets of Port Antonio. As a rule we saw only black faces—coal black and with but little of adulteration. Ninety per cent. of the population of the island are full-blooded Negroes. A white face is rarely seen in Jamaica. The houses, even the best, are small, one-story structures, much like our cottages at campgrounds. The houses of the mass of the Negroes are much like the cabins in our Southland, only a grade better and in most cases a little larger, with two rooms. These Negroes are not so well dressed as those in the South, but they look more intelligent, and are mild and courteous. They carry everything upon their heads, the women particularly, and sometimes are weighted with burdens that we could scarcely lift. Just now we pass a low, long, one-story structure made of plain boards, painted white, but without windows save as an opening is left in each compartment for a door and another some two feet square for light and air. This building, situated upon one of the principal streets, is really a block of four cabins. The women have a rude arrangement for cooking over an open fire in the rear.

We reach the business street. It is narrow, and the stores are small, one-story frame buildings. Here is a two-story structure, having upon its front the sign, "D. S. Gideon & Nephew," into which we enter and make a purchase. It is like an American "country store." The proprietor and several clerks—all black—are in attendance. In a small frame building near by, perhaps ten feet long and six feet deep, with a partition dividing it into two places of business, is the shoemaker and the tailor. The entire front of each place is removed during business hours, so that in a room about five feet square the tailor is seen running his sewing machine and the shoemaker at work with his last. These Negroes are very good artisans, showing more skill in these lines than our black men.

We enter the headquarters of the Boston Fruit Co. Mr. J. A. Jones, of the Company, gives us a kindly greeting, and does very much to make our stay at Port Antonio and upon the island enjoyable and instructive. The Boston Fruit Co., which was formed in 1877 by Capt. Lorenzo Baker and E. B. Hopkins, formerly of Weymouth, Mass., Capt. Jesse H. Freeman, A. W. Preston and others, for the purpose of growing bananas in Jamaica and shipping them to the United States, has become a very important and successful association. Three-fourths of the bananas received in Boston are brought by this Company. Capt. Baker resides upon the island at Port Morant and is the president. The Company owns 28,000 acres of land, leases nearly 20,000 more, and employs twelve steamships to carry its fruits to Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia. The main office of the Company evidently recognizes no "color line," for its many trusted and intelligent clerks and accountants presented faces of every hue. President Baker and Mr. Hopkins are of Methodist stock. For many years they have been active Christian men, and, as members of the Wesleyan Church, do much to help civilize and Christianize the masses of people upon the island.

We drive out some five miles to call upon Eugene B. Baker, a son of our old parishioner at Auburndale, the late Capt. Reuben Baker, who was one of the noblest men. In the ten to twelve miles of our drive, going and returning, we did not see a single white face, but many black ones. Mr. Baker has an attractive home, beautifully situated in near proximity to the sea and embowered in the most luxuriant foliage and flowers. He is upon a "plantation" of 1,100 acres, devoted mainly to the growing of the pimento (allspice), logwood, and cottonwood from which cigar boxes are made.

Do you care to see the Negro in his native haunt? Then enter this cabin with us. It is a rude structure, twelve feet by twelve. Its sides are woven like a basket of bamboo or palmetto, and on its roof is a thick mat of thatch. The only opening is through the doorway. The floor is the unwept soil. The cabin is divided into two rooms by a partition. In the first room are two rude tables, a water jar, some broken plates, apologies for knives and forks, and a bed made of braided sugar cane. In the other room we see nothing in the way of furniture or clothing except the most primitive kind of a bed and some soiled and torn calico garments hanging on the wall. This is the home for mother, father and half-clad children, girls and boys. The common decencies and restraints of our home life are impossible. In those cabins families eat, sleep, rot in licentiousness, and prematurely die. Hence we repeat what we have before said, that it is impossible to elevate and Christianize the Negro until he is taken out of the cabin and put with his family into a place worthy of the name of home.

On our ride we saw a Negro woman, aged and wrinkled and wretchedly clad, in a small stream washing clothes. She had a clay pipe in her mouth and was smoking. Our special artist, Rev. George Skene, undertook to use his camera, but no sooner did the woman spy it than she started to run, and her husband, who witnessed the effort, commanded her to hasten her departure. In this one instance the photographer was defeated. Upon our return we passed a building which bore the sign of the Young Men's Christian Association, and we were gratified to learn that this aggressive religious organization had penetrated this island. The district court was in session in the Court House—a very creditable brick building. We went in to listen to the adjudication of cases growing out of claims

for land damages consequent upon the construction of a railroad across the island. It was a strange sight. Not a wholly white face was seen in the court room save that of the presiding justice, who was a Briton indeed. We saw black policemen—uniformed and noblespecimens of their race. Children were met on their way to and from the public school, neatly dressed, with intelligent faces and always courteous. The turkey buzzard flies about everywhere, the scavenger of the island, and is protected by law.

Golden Vale, a large banana plantation, is a few miles out from Port Antonio. This section of the island is particularly productive because favored at almost all seasons of the year with daily showers. These showers are refreshing. They are likely to descend at any hour of the day, last but a little while usually, and render the atmosphere cooler and more enjoyable. An umbrella is, therefore, a necessary companion at all times. The banana plant bears but one bunch, and its productive mission is then completed. From the first plant many new shoots grow out, which will also bear once. Upon this plantation a colony of "Coolies" live and labor. Here the habits of India may be seen so far as its laboring classes are concerned. The Coolies is of more delicate form and feature than the Negro. He has a mild and attractive face, and is exceedingly considerate and courteous. The same distinctions of costume and dress are maintained that are seen on the banks of the Ganges. The women are much smaller than the men, and, to the American, look quite diminutive. Their compensation is, for men, twenty-five cents per diem, and for the women sixteen cents, and the Coolies board and clothe themselves at these prices. So much more is that than the amount received in India that it seems to them exceedingly large and generous. The women and men work side by side in the banana plantations and when once taught are skillful and faithful help. Their possessions are worn upon a necklace, to which are attached in some cases many valuable pieces of gold and silver. Some of the women were wearing anklets of silver. Although evidently of a race superior to the Negro, yet the latter looks down upon the Coolie as his inferior. The rival of the Negro and his competitor for wages earned, yet each race seems content to leave the other severely alone. The Coolies are approachable and quite susceptible to Christian effort. Away from their caste-bound land they receive without restraint the ministry of the Christian missionary, and the results of missionary work among them are very encouraging. As they do not intend to become permanent residents of Jamaica, their return to the banks of the Indus as experimental Christians must be a factor of no little importance in Christianizing that vast land.

We called upon Rev. Thomas Harty, the rector of the Anglican Church in Port Antonio. He is a colored man—that is, is of mixed blood. He has a church of nearly one thousand members and his congregation averages about one thousand. It is unusual to see a white person present at the services. A cultivated Christian man, of excellent standing in the community in which he had lived for eight years, we asked and were granted the privilege of catechizing him with perfect frankness about the black race. His wife is white—a beautiful and refined Christian woman. Though devotedly loyal to his people, Mr. Harty confessed that some of the problems connected with his work were distressingly painful. "The characteristic weakness and sin of our people," he said, "is unchastity." He showed his baptismal register for the last year, and the record stood—legitimate 34, illegitimate 68. It was about the same for the eight years that he had been rector of the church. "Our people are children of nature," he said, "and they do not know how to exercise self-restraint. They are averse to marriage, and do not look upon chastity as the supreme virtue for women." Mothers are very anxious to have their children baptized, even if illegitimate. To our inquiry as to whether he saw any improvement in this respect, and if the church could not make itself felt more forcefully as a teacher of purity, he replied with much sadness: "No. Tell me what I can do? I dare not refuse baptism when it is requested so earnestly."

That same day we had visited the district jail—a place made evidently for the punishment of the criminal rather than for his retirement and comfort. The cells in which the men were placed for confinement, after the day's labor in breaking stone for the streets, are plain rooms, without furniture, perhaps four feet wide and six feet long and high. Inquiring of the superintendent if there were any women confined there, he replied affirmatively and took us to another department, where, opening the door of a small room, we looked upon a picture that still haunts us. A Negro girl with a delicate face sat upon the hard floor with a nursing babe at her breast. She did not seem to be more than sixteen, and her infant could not have been many weeks old. She looked into our face with an abashed, plaintive and piteous appeal. Greatly touched, we walked away to ask the superintendent for what violation of law she was confined. "For pilfering," he said. "Where is her husband?" we asked. "She has none, sir," he said, with perfect indifference. Ah! we thought, as we went to our hotel alone, reflecting upon the problem of the Negro, that mother and babe present an object lesson showing the real condition of the race. Here is the fatal, hopeless weakness of this people. Unless a Christian civilization can institute improvement in this respect, nothing of value in the way of practical reformation and achievement in righteous living can be effected.

"Stylus" Again, and the Moribund Annuity Plan.

WE find, upon our return to the office, March 6, after an absence of eighteen days, that "Stylus" occupies nearly a column and a half in the *Christian Advocate* of Feb. 28 in reply to an editorial in our issue of Feb. 12 entitled, "More Misinformation." Although "Stylus" in his replication thoroughly misrepresents our position and attitude in this important matter, and makes untrue and derogatory statements concerning us and the management of the *HERALD*, yet our feeling for him is one of commiseration rather than of censure. It is evident that it is not "Stylus" who speaks in the contribution referred to, but that Dr. J. B. Hamilton speaks through him. "Stylus," in lending his kind offices and pen to his friend, is duped by him, and is thus put in a most unenviable plight. We should be quite willing to leave the brilliant correspondent of the *Christian Advocate* to discover his humiliating position in the early future, only demanding as penalty then that he carefully reread his contribution, were it not that silence concerning the severe allegations made against us might be construed by the unwary reader as an admission of the truth of his charges.

"Stylus" evades the merits of the question and the indubitable facts in the case, and seeks to make it appear that we are in a personal controversy with Dr. J. B. Hamilton, and are engaged in an unfair attack upon him. Not so. We regret not a little that we have been obliged to refer to him so frequently. His irrepressible and pugnacious advocacy of the annuity plan has compelled many references to him. A single purpose has animated us — to help the church to right thinking and conclusions regarding that plan. That end having been accomplished, we gladly dismiss the subject, except when forced, as in this case, to reply to misrepresentations.

We do not desire to take time nor to devote space to the refutation of the additional misinformation of "Stylus" relative to the action of the New York East Conference; but we advise him to verify his data more carefully before he writes further upon that subject. How could "Stylus" so far lose his self-control and spirit of courtesy and fairness as to make the following charge? "The only reason why others have not written in defence and explanation of the New York East plan was the well-defined assurance that their contributions would either be 'returned with thanks,' or be 'pigeon-holed' during the present administration." How does he know that the editor of *ZION'S HERALD* refuses, or will pigeon-hole, contributions in favor of the annuity plan? The declaration is absolutely without foundation in fact and in violation of the well-known principles upon which this paper is conducted. It has always been a free forum for the discussion of all questions vital to the church, and never more so than today.

"Stylus" is characteristically personal and quite like himself in his closing paragraph: "What is the matter with New England, or does the editor of *ZION'S HERALD* only represent *ZION'S HERALD*?" We assure him that there is nothing the matter with New England, especially in its relation to the annuity plan. New England Methodism has been, is, and will be, quite competent to do its own thinking upon any urgent problems connected with the church. It will even excuse "Stylus" and Dr. J. B. Hamilton from further effort to drag him into support of that abortive plan. We answer the last half of the question by the declaration that we do not believe three per cent. of the one thousand ministers in our six patronizing Conferences have now any sympathy with the annuity plan.

The annuity plan has been dying for weeks; it is now dead; it has ceased to live in the Conferences where it first gained some prestige. The good men who were first induced to give it support — because without critical investigation they were led to believe that it would be advantageous to the superannuate — under the logic of the facts presented in these columns, confess that the system is impracticable and injurious to the needy superannuate. It is no secret that a majority of the names of the laymen published by Dr. Hamilton in the *Christian Advocate* as his supporters, have abandoned both the annuity plan and its sponsor. We have for weeks been in possession of facts in this connection which we withhold in order to save the Methodist public from further humiliation in this matter. If Dr. Hamilton would only read the mind and wish of the church aright, he would see the inutilty and harmfulness of pressing further this subject upon the attention of the denomination. The church is heartily sick of this agitation. The annuity plan is dead — and we are much gratified in being able to add that *ZION'S HERALD* killed it.

"Stylus" seems to have a fatal proclivity and facility for furnishing misinformation in regard to the annuity plan. He returns to it again in a paragraph contained in a letter published in the *Christian Advocate* of March 7. In referring to that royal layman, Mr. W. H. Murphy, of Newark, who is doing so much to assist the superannuate, he seeks to convey the impression that Mr. Murphy is still an advocate of the annuity plan proper. Why does not "Stylus" state the whole truth with entire frankness concerning Mr. Murphy's latest views regarding the annuity plan?

It is amusing to read in the same contribution about "the association which has sent Dr. J. B.

Hamilton to all parts of the church." In his next letter to the *Advocate*, will not "Stylus" give its readers a chapter containing the history of that "association" — how it was formed, when called together, what it has ever known of Dr. J. B. Hamilton's operations, of his receipts, expenditures, etc., etc.?

In another paragraph "Stylus" will do well to inform the readers of the *Christian Advocate* of the latest action of the commissions appointed by the New York East and the New York Conferences to consider the whole subject of the annuity plan. Surely "Stylus" cannot be uninformed about matters of such significant importance which have recently transpired so near to him.

The Methodist public will, at any event, soon have the whole truth, and we calmly await that hour for our complete justification.

Suppression of Sunday Evening Concerts and Plays.

A BILL for the suppression of the objectionable Sunday evening concerts and plays that have recently disgraced Boston and other cities of our commonwealth, has passed to its third reading in our State Senate. There is concerted action on the part of a large number of our order-loving citizens, representing not less than seven religious denominations, to secure its final passage. Our readers so far as they have influence with our law-makers should enlist them in securing this important reform. A great ratification meeting was held in Music Hall, Boston, Sunday afternoon, March 10, at which Joseph Cook and others spoke forcefully in support of the measure. The Boston secular and Sunday papers, generously patronized as they are by the theatres, favor local regulation of such matters by the board of aldermen, which means that Sunday evening entertainments would go on as in the past. The best sentiment of the people throughout the State calls for the passage of the bill, and it is to be hoped that our General Court will respond to this sentiment and the bill become law.

The Presiding Elders' Symposium.

UPON the second and third pages this week will be found frank statements from the presiding elders of our patronizing Conferences that are of unusual interest. These representatives of the church, appointed to leadership and management, enumerate some of the greatest obstacles and the greatest encouragements that they find in the discharge of the duties of their office. A faithful perusal of these responses to our inquiry will enable our readers to apprehend more sympathetically the delicate and critical nature of the great trust committed to these officers of the church. Increasingly important, it seems to us, is the work of the presiding elder. He knows the ministers and the needs of the churches as does no one else. To serve the church faithfully and to do the best for each brother minister committed to him, is, we know, an occasion of solicitude and anxious desire weighing heavily upon the presiding elder. It should be more generally and reasonably understood that it is impossible for these disposers of ministers and of the fortunes of the churches to do just what in each case may be ardently desired. This symposium is, therefore, particularly timely, as its publication comes so near to the annual sessions of our Conferences.

Personals.

— Bishop Foster left Boston last week to preside over the three Missouri Conferences.

— Mayor Kennedy, of Toronto, Canada, frequently preaches in Methodist pulpits in that city.

— Dr. Lyman Abbott will make the address on next commencement day of Northwestern University.

— Preston E. Eggleston (colored) took the first prize in an oratorical contest recently held at the University of Indiana. He is the son of a barber.

— Hon. Alden Speare and wife left last week for St. Augustine, Fla., where they will remain until about April 1.

— Bishop William Taylor's autobiography will be edited by Dr. John Clark Ripath. It will be published by Hunt & Eaton.

— The wife and daughter of Dr. E. E. Hoss, editor of the *Christian Advocate*, Nashville, are members of the Daughters of the Revolution.

— Rev. Freeman H. Stanton, a superannuated member of the Central New York Conference, died, Feb. 28, at his home in Rochester, N. Y. He was in his 86th year.

— Bishop Walden hopes to sail from San Francisco on his way to the Asiatic Conferences about May 10. He will no doubt visit our work in Honolulu on his way out.

— We are greatly gratified to read in the last *Epworth Herald* that Dr. H. B. Ridgway, president of Garrett Biblical Institute, seems to be slowly regaining his health.

— There is a general and profound feeling of regret that Rev. Dr. W. W. Ramsay feels constrained, on account of the health of Mrs. Ramsay, to conclude his work with Tremont St. Church at the close of the present year. His pastorate has been pre-eminently successful in all departments. He has been a vital force in reformatory work in the city. Able, gentle, courteous and helpfully fraternal, he has made a

large place for himself in the work of our church in this city and in New England.

— Rev. Dr. J. W. Webb, formerly of St. Paul's Church, Providence, R. I., but now of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., is unanimously invited to serve the large church with which he is now connected for another year.

— During the absence of Miss Willard abroad the duties of the national president of the W. C. T. U. will be discharged by Mrs. L. M. B. Stevens, of Stroudwater, Me., who was elected vice-president in Cleveland last October.

— Prof. John W. B. Bowen, Ph. D., D. D., of the chair of church history in Gammon Theological School, Atlanta, will visit Germany the coming summer for further study under Professors Harnack, of Berlin, and Looft, of Halle.

— Rev. Dr. A. Carman, general superintendent of the Methodist Church of Canada, will preach the baccalaureate sermon, and Hon. Chauncey M. Depew will deliver the annual literary address, at the next commencement of Vanderbilt University.

— A special despatch to the Boston Journal from Cincinnati states that Mrs. Ballington Booth has been granted a license by the probate court that she may officiate at weddings. This is the first case of the kind here, and it is also said to be the first legal recognition of the Salvationists in America.

— Rev. Simon Gilbert, D. D., who has for twenty-one years been identified with the editorial administration of the *Advocate* of Chicago, has terminated his relation to that excellent journal. Dr. Gilbert is eminent as a religious journalist, and we trust the tripod will retain him in some active field of labor.

— Mrs. Joseph L. Odell, mother of Rev. Willis P. Odell, of Buffalo, N. Y., for many years a member of the Freewill Baptist Church of Lakeport, N. H., died at that place, Monday, March 4, after an illness of several years. She was known in Mr. Odell's various charges as a cheerful, zealous woman, exceedingly devoted to her gifted son.

— Rev. H. W. Norton, presiding elder of Bucksport District, East Maine Conference, writes under date of March 6: "Rev. S. S. Gross, of Edmunds, Me., passed triumphantly over the river, March 4, after a brief sickness of three weeks — gripped followed by pneumonia. He was conscious to the last, and met the end in great peace. It is still true that 'our people die well.'"

— The *Springfield Union* of March 4 contains a sermon preached by Rev. Henry Tuckley at Trinity Church, that city, upon the theme, "Our Daughters Facing Life: What Will Their Choice Be?" It is a thoughtful and appreciative tribute to woman in her life-work. We are glad to know that our recent Round Table inspired the treatment of this very important subject.

— We are pained to learn of the death of Rev. Thomas Spooner, pastor of the Free Baptist Church at Lawrence, who died at his residence in that city, March 7, after a brief illness. He was born in Franconia, N. H., 45 years ago, and was a graduate of Bates College and Cobb Divinity School. He went to Lawrence from Farmington, N. H., about seven years ago. He was able, devout, and especially fraternal and helpful in his relations with the ministers and representatives of other denominations.

— Rev. Arthur J. Watson, of our Malaysia Mission Conference, pursuing his studies in the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Theology, Boston University, is open to engagements, either to do supply work or to deliver addresses about India or Malaysia. He was born in India, and is thoroughly conversant with all phases of our work in that far-off and most promising field of missionary labor. He has delivered lectures on "Hinduism," about which we hear so much, in several places. He depends for his support largely on the work that he gets to do here. His address is 72 Mt. Vernon St.

— A service of unusual interest was held on Sunday evening, Feb. 24, in the M. E. Church at Herkimer, N. Y., the occasion being a farewell meeting in honor of Rev. and Mrs. C. M. Griffith, who are under the appointment of our Missionary Society to educational work in Concepcion, Chile. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith are the first missionaries sent out to the foreign field from the Folts Mission Institute — a school which is now in the second year of its existence — and church, town and school joined in making the service one long to be remembered as a time of great spiritual blessing.

— Rev. G. L. Collyer, of St. John's Church, Dover, N. H., sends the following painful news, under date of March 7: "Mrs. Martha Norris, wife of Rev. Geo. W. Norris, presiding elder of Dover District, entered the eternal rest last evening, at about 9 o'clock. Her illness of about a week was very serious, but her sudden death was entirely unexpected. Four hours before she died her physician declared some of her symptoms to be more favorable. This world is clearly poorer for the departure of this noble, true woman." In the anguish of his grief Mr. Norris writes: "She was sweet and modest as the violet, distrustful of self, and utterly unselfish. She trusted Jesus fully, and served Him loyally with all her heart. She has often said to me, 'I can only be a gleaner,' but I know she did what she could, and her 'gleanings' are more than all my 'harvest.' I sadly feel the desolation of the weary land; but I am 'under the shadow of the Great Rock,' and the kind Christian sympathy of my brethren is very soothing to my tired heart and brain."

— Our religious exchanges contain generous and appreciative notices of Dr. H. K. Lunn's visit to this country and the many addresses which he delivered. His coming among us has been notable for the great amount of work accomplished in the limited time he was able to remain — reaching so many of our leading cities, addressing so many representative assemblies, and preaching in so many prominent pulpits of all denominations. Dr. Lunn is a comprehensive observer, with open eyes for the good no less than for the bad in our society. It will be seen from the series of most interesting contributions which he has so kindly written for our columns, that he does our people, institutions and civilization ample justice. We trust that he has so greatly enjoyed his few short weeks with us that we may soon have the privilege of welcoming him again to our hospitable shores.

— William Morrison Crawford is one of the five men selected by the senior class of the School of Law of Boston University to compete before a board of judges for the two positions of Commencement speakers for next June. He is the only man in this department who has done the three years' work in two years.

Brieflets.

The *Methodist Review* for March-April is a strong and varied number. The contributions by Prof. William North Rice, Prof. H. G. Mitchell, and Dr. H. K. Carroll are notable and pertinent.

A full and interesting report of the eighth annual National Deacons' Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Central Church, New York city, March 7 to 9, written by Miss Lunn, is crowded over to our next issue.

Rev. J. S. Breckinridge, D. D., spent a recent Sunday in Ithaca, N. Y., receiving a contribution of \$200 towards the Brooklyn Hospital, and one man promised \$100 each year as long as he lives and a legacy when he dies. The hospital is full and yet is meeting all current expenses monthly, and is preparing to enlarge its work by making room for additional beds and opening the out-patient department.

This week we begin the promised series of "Professions and Occupations for Women" with a paper on "Shorthand" by Miss Hardy, who is at the head of a Young Ladies' School of Shorthand in this city. Other papers, on Journalism, the Ministry, Stenography, Nursing, Floriculture, Teaching the Deaf, Farming, Millinery, Teaching, China Painting, the Law, Library Work, Type-setting and Proof-reading, Medicine, Deacons' Work, etc., will appear from time to time.

We learn from many sources that our Epworth Leagues are being pressed to raise money for outside purposes and remote objects. From the first we have felt that this practice was wholly unjustifiable. The appeal of the Missionary Society, in its crisis, to the Epworth Leagues for relief, was natural, but nevertheless it was a mistake. The Leagues should make their offerings as a part of the church and only through the ordinary channels. We hope that the effort to exploit the Leagues for all sorts of impetuous causes will be promptly and determinedly resisted.

Rev. Dr. James Mudge's volume upon "Growth in Holiness toward Perfection; or, Progressive Sanctification," is at last printed, and will be issued by the last of the month, in time for the Spring Conferences, by Hunt & Eaton. It is a book that no minister or layman who wishes to understand this difficult and much-controverted subject, can afford to do without.

That Dr. E. M. Mills, of the First Church, Elmira, N. Y., is an adept in arranging for and in managing an annual League convention, is strikingly shown in the issues of the *Elmira Daily Gazette* and *Free Press* of March 7 and 8, especially in the superbly illustrated supplement. We advise any who may have to do with the arrangements for such a convention to examine the issues named.

The following list appears in the *Boston Herald* as the appointments made in New England at the recent session of the East Pennsylvania Evangelical Association held at Pottstown, Pa.: —

Joshua Gill, presiding elder, Boston and Brookline, Mass.; Jesse Lee Chapel, Joshua Gill, A. H. H. First Swedish Church, Boston, Andrew Hyden; East Boston, L. W. Malcolm; Charlestown, George Riddow; Cambridge, J. N. Short and D. F. Burns; Chelsea, J. O. Briggs; Somerville, W. B. Fredericks; Lynn, to be supplied; Salem, Robert Pierce; Pawtucket, R. L. H. H. Perry; Central Falls, R. L. George E. Buell; Montpelier, Vt., M. M. Shaw; Woodville, N. H., to be supplied; Kingsfield, Me., A. B. Clark.

It is noticeable, in nearly every instance, that the nuclei of these churches were found in an element which had been educated and directed by the presiding elder before he withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church. We predicted what the outcome would be, but by some it was feared that we were unduly apprehensive of a schism and were moved by personal considerations. We desire to add, in all frankness and fairness, that we think these ministers are now taking the honorable course in order to cherish and promulgate views which are sacred and vital to them. With such purpose they and their denomination have all the rights and privileges in New England that are accorded to any other church.

The Sunday School.

FIRST QUARTER. LESSON XII.

Sunday, March 24.

Rom. 12: 8-14.

Rev. W. O. Holway, U. S. N.

PURITY OF LIFE.

I. Preliminary.

1. Golden Text: *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*—1 Thess. 5: 22.

2. Date: A. D. 54.

3. Place: CORINTH. The Epistle was written by St. Paul towards the close of his three months' residence in that city, just before completing his third great missionary journey.

4. Home Readings: Monday—Rom. 12: 8-14. Tuesday—Rom. 12: 11-13. Wednesday—Rom. 12: 1-3. Thursday—1 Cor. 6: 11-13. Friday—James 4: 1-10. Saturday—1 Peter 1: 13-22. Sunday—1 Peter 4: 1-7.

II. Introductory.

St. Paul is enunciating practical duties. The first seven verses of this chapter are devoted to public obligations—those that every follower of Christ should render to "the powers that be," to human magistrates, whose office is ordained of God. He turns now to private relations and duties. Others' claims must be carefully regarded, particularly in the matter of pecuniary indebtedness. The Christian should so order his life and expenses that he need owe no man anything—except the debt of brotherly love, a debt which should be constantly and genuinely paid. He who is ever paying this never-paid debt truly fulfills or keeps the law; for love never injures one's neighbor, is never guilty of adultery, or stealing, or bearing false witness, or coveting; neighbor love that is measured by self-love can be trusted to "work no ill." And then, to encourage those to whom he was writing, the Apostle reminds them that "brief time" is now their "portion." It should not be spent in the dull sleep of sloth and sin. Their final redemption was nearer than when, by believing, they accepted Christ. Gleams of the coming and eternal day of peace and glory were apparent. They should hasten to divest themselves, therefore, of the "works of darkness," and to robe themselves in "the armor of light" and purity. As children of the day they should live in accordance with their privilege and profession. Especially should they guard against license and drunkenness, against lascivious indulgences, against quarrels and envying. For these and similar lusts of the flesh they should never plan—rather they should take care to put on their Master like a robe, and be clothed with His purity and self-denial.

III. Expository.

8. Owe no man anything—money, or anything else, save love. "We must avail ourselves of no technicality of law to avoid paying what is equitably due" (Whedon). But to love one another—"Pay all other debts; be indebted in the matter of love alone. This debt increases the more it is paid; because the practice of love makes the principle of love deeper and more active" (Alford). He that loveth another (R. V., "his neighbor") hath fulfilled the law—the Mosaic law, that part of it which concerns neighbor-obligations. "He who practices love, the higher duty, has even before he does this, fulfilled the law, the lower duty" (De Wette). As applied to temperance, this precept forbids all such behavior as tends to harm another—either by selling liquor or "treating." It requires the Christian to abstain for the sake of others: "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no meat while the world lasts," etc.

The precept, in its particular application to money-debts, no doubt counsels immediate payment when possible and desirable. Its spirit, however, obliges the Christian only to a watchful avoidance of a state of debt, by careful restriction of expenses within means; and a thoughtful care for the interests of the creditor to whom deferred payment may be serious loss (see Prov. 3: 27, 28). But it is obvious that the "owing" here is not of money only, but of every kind of "due" from man to man (Cambridge Bible).

9. For this.—Precept after precept of the law is enumerated as illustrating how love fulfills it. Neighbor-love never commits adultery, never murders, never steals, never even covets. The words, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," are omitted in the R. V. If there be any other commandment, etc.—all those specified, and all others of the same tenor. Briefly comprehended—R. V., "It is summed up." Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.—"Our neighbor is every one whom we can help." This is quoted from Leviticus 19: 18, where it is the climax of a noble series of moral commands in the midst of the book of ceremonies" (W. N. Clarke). The Golden Rule flows from this principle of love. "The phrase 'as thyself' gives additional evidence that our love for our fellows is to be not merely abstinence from doing harm, but activity in doing good. Read carefully 1 Cor. 13, which was written by Paul not far from the date of this letter, and remember the quaint old saying, 'Love is holiness spelled short'" (Moale).

10. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor—no ill of any kind, including the kinds specified. Love is the fulfilling (R. V., "fulfillment") of the law.—Love keeps the commandments, because God commands them, and to keep them pleases Him. The secret of obedience to the precepts of the Second Table is love for one another.

There are many employments, all of whose tendency is to work ill to a neighbor. This is pre-eminently true of the traffic in ardent spirits. It cannot do him good, and the almost uniform result is to deprive him of his property, health, reputation, peace, and domestic comfort. He that sells his neighbor liquid fire, knowing what must be the result of it, is not pursuing a business which works no ill to him; and love to that neighbor would prompt him to abandon the traffic (Albert Barnes).

11. And that (R. V., "and this")—"that is, 'let us do this,' namely, live in no debt but that of love, for other reasons, and especially for this following one" (Alford). Knowing the time (R. V., "the season")—the period of the last days in which St. Paul believed that he was then living (see 1 Thess. 4: 17; 1 Cor. 15: 51). It is high time to awake out of sleep—to rouse themselves from the stupor of indifference or worldliness. "The imagery seems to be taken originally from our Lord's discourse concerning His coming (Matt. 24: 42; Mark 13: 33; Luke 21: 28-36)" (Alford). Salvation nearer than when we believed (R. V., "first believed").—The "salvation" referred to is the final redemption which our Lord will grant at His coming.

John Bunyan tells us that "when Hopeful came to a certain country he began to be very dull and heavy of sleep. Wherefore he said, 'Let us lie down here, and take one nap.' By no means," said the other, 'least, sleeping, we wake no more.' 'Why, my brother? Sleep is sweet to the laboring man; we may be refreshed if we take a nap.' 'Do you not remember,' said the other, 'that one of the shepherds bade us beware of the enchanted ground? He meant by that, we should beware of sleeping.' 'Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.' Slumbering and backsliding are closely allied" (Keribut).

12. The night is far spent—the night of error and sin in which the fidelity of Christians undergoes trial; the hour and power of darkness (Eph. 6: 12). The day is at hand—the dawn of the resurrection, the day of eternal peace and light; "of which resurrection we are already partakers and are to walk as such (Col. 3: 1-4; 1 Thess. 5: 5-8)" (Alford). The verbs in this sentence are, in the original, in the past tense—"the night was far spent, the day hath drawn near." This will permit us to interpret the word "day" as referring to the present era of gospel light and privilege which dawned upon the world at the rising of the Sun of Righteousness, that is, at our Lord's first advent. Many commentators prefer this view. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness—divest ourselves of all evil habits or inclinations as one lays aside a night-robe. Let us put on the armor of light—as belts—"sons of light, sons of the day." This "armor" is a favorite metaphor with the Apostle, who, for example, speaks in Thessalonians of the "breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet the hope of salvation" (1 Thess. 5: 8). A fuller armor is mentioned in Eph. 6: 11, 13. Light is a symbol of purity, sincerity, knowledge.

13. Let us walk honestly—"seemly" (Alford); "decently" (Margin); "becomingly; with the true decorum of a life of obedience to the will of God" (Cambridge Bible). As in the day—as men walk by day, in sight of all, hiding nothing. "The Christian is thus bidden to think of himself as in the daylight; with light on him and around him. This is probably here the 'light' of 1 John 1: 7; the light of the knowledge of the Holy One, and of His felt presence (Psa. 132: 12). Such 'light' is the dawning of that Day in which 'we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is'" (Cambridge Bible). Not in rioting—R. V., "reveling." Drunkenness.—The word is plural; drunken excesses, such as those which characterized pagan or idolatrous feasts. Not in chambering—plural in the original. And wantonness. Both these words refer to illicit lustful indulgences. "The common practice of unnatural vices by even the most eminent of the Romans at that time, made it the more necessary that the Christians should be warned to avoid them, and that it should be made manifest that such vices were wholly incompatible with their spiritual vocation. Respecting the awful prevalence of this form of criminality see chap. 1: 25-27; all of which is more than confirmed by recently discovered memorials" (Curry). Not in strife and envying (R. V., "jealousy").—"Revelry is followed on the one hand by lasciviousness and on the other by strife and jealous wrath" (Gifford).

14. Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.—Be so arrayed in Him that you will be taken for Him. Be Christlike in your behavior, in your example. Have Him so thoroughly enthroned within that He will shine through you, transfigure you. "Christ put on man in nature and condition; man should put on Christ in disposition and character. He became partaker of our physical nature: we should become partakers of His moral nature. Christ put on man that man might put on Christ" (J. F. and H.). "The expression is a strong one, denoting the complete assumption of the nature, etc., of another (Hilcott). Make not provision for the flesh.—Don't plan for 'the flesh.' 'The heathen Gentiles lived and labored, bought and sold, schemed and planned for 'the flesh.' It was the whole business of their lives to gratify sinful lusts" (Clarke). To fulfill the lusts thereof—more exactly "unto lusts;" or evil desires. "We may provide for the flesh, but not for the exciting and gratifying of its lusts. We owe a duty

to our bodies which, though the seat of unlawful desires, are yet consecrated to God, as temples of His Spirit, and consequently we owe a duty to the flesh—the living material of which these bodies are composed" (Ford).

This verse is memorable as the turning-point of St. Augustine's conversion. In his Confessions (VIII: 19) he records how, at a time of great moral conflict, he was strangely impelled by a voice, perhaps the cry of children at play ("Take and read, take and read") to open again the Epistles of St. Paul, which he had recently been reading. "I read in silence the first place on which my eyes fell: 'Not in reveling and drunkenness; not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in its lusts.' I neither cared, nor needed, to read further. At the close of the sentence, as if a ray of certainty were poured into my heart, the clouds of hesitation all fled at once."

IV. Illustrative.

1. I once asked the greatest of inventors, Thomas A. Edison, if he was a total abstainer; and when he told me that he was, I said, "May I inquire whether it was home influence that made you so?" and he replied, "No, I think it was because I always felt that I had a better use for my head." Who can measure the loss to the world if that wonderful instrument of thought that has given us so much of light and leading in the practical mechanism of life had become sodden with drink, instead of electric with original ideas? (Frances E. Willard.)

2. Had I 10,000,000 tongues, and a throat for each tongue, I would say to every man, woman and child here tonight: Throw strong drink aside as you would an ounce of liquid hell. It sears the conscience, it destroys everything it touches. It reaches into the family circle and takes the wife you have sworn to protect, and drags her down from her purity into that house from which no decent woman ever goes alive. It induces the father to take furniture from his house, exchange it for money at the pawn-shop, and spend the proceeds in rum. It damns everything it touches. I have seen it in every city east of the Mississippi River, and I know that the most damning curse to the laborer is that which gurgles from the neck of the bottle. I had rather be at the head of an organization having 100,000 temperate, honest, earnest men than at the head of an organization of 12,000,000 drinkers whether moderate or any other kind. Every time spent in the rumshop furnishes a paving stone to hell. In one Pennsylvania county in a single year \$17,000,000 was spent for liquor, and it was estimated that \$11,000,000 of the amount came from workmen (T. V. Powderly, quoted by Peloubet).

From the New York Tribune, Feb. 15, 1895.

The well-known Advertising Agency and Publishing business of Herbert Booth King & Brother, which has long been one of the landmarks of lower Broadway, New York, will transfer their main office to Madison Square about March 1st, using their downtown office as a branch establishment. They will occupy the first floor of their new building, 32 East 23d St., N. Y., which is adjacent to their Printing Establishment on 22d St. Their new offices face Madison Square and are opposite the entrance to the new Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's building. They will connect with their downtown branch by telephone and pneumatic tubes, so that no time will be lost in communicating with the various newspaper establishments. With their facilities for setting up and stereotyping advertisements in their own establishment, and almost instantaneously delivering copy to the newspapers, they will be enabled to work carefully and expeditiously for their customers. A feature of their new offices will be the Art and Literary Departments where the special work of preparing advertising matter will be undertaken.

Herbert Booth King & Brother, besides controlling one of the largest advertising businesses of the country, also own a large printing establishment, wherein is printed every sort and kind of circular, catalogue or periodical, including their own very successful publication, FASHIONS, which has already attained a circulation of a quarter of a million copies.

THE GOSPEL CHOIR No. 2.

By SANKEY, McGRATHAN and STEBBINS. Containing the latest anthems, Quartets, Duets, Sacred Songs and Choruses, by the authors. Will be issued February 25th.

Price: Paper covers, 50c. per copy, postpaid; \$3.00 per dozen; Board covers, \$4.50 per dozen; Cloth, \$6.00 per dozen, by express not prepaid.

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Chaplain D. H. Tribou, U. S. N.

For myself I always suspect figures, and when I found a calculation which reduced the income from a million dollars so low as to make it an undesirable thing, I knew there was a mistake out somewhere. It will take some years to increase from 130 Conferences to 200, and many thousands of dollars might be divided from a million-dollar fund before we have two hundred Conferences. Ten thousand dollars is rather a large salary to pay for the care of a million dollars which has trustees to protect it and to advise in regard to it. But let these things pass. It is the easy-going nonchalance with which this writer disposes of an annual income of fifty thousand dollars that will take the richest superannuate off his feet. The impression left on my mind was that it is a mere bagatelle, hardly worth a serious effort. As the income from the Book Concern is only \$100,000, and cannot be expected to be as much as that unless times improve; as many years passed without its paying anything to the superannuates at all, while they patiently waited for its capital to increase; and as the praise of the Book Concern is in everybody's heart, I think the rank and file of the ministry would vote in the proportion of at least ten thousand to one that an annual income of \$50,000 is a very tidy sum. Two hundred dollars to a Conference may seem small to the older and richer Conferences, but it would add a third to the amounts available for superannuates in at least a score of Conferences. East Maine is much delighted with its share of the dividend of the Wesleyan Association — as it has reason to be

Boston, Mass.

"N'importe."

THIS Michigan winter has been one of the coldest since the oldest inhabitant can remember, and "We don't have such cold winters as we used to have," is a remark the aged men are not making this season. Blizzards have been the order since the year began; and the usual revival season, with many of our churches "following the week of prayer," was sadly and almost disastrously broken in upon in many localities. Hence the reports of souls converted and added into the church are not so frequent nor so joyful as a year ago. Nevertheless, many revival meetings with blessed results have been reported. At Benton Harbor there was quite a

The death of Mrs. Mary T. Lathrap removes a conspicuous American woman from a busy life

The editorials of ZION'S HERALD on the J. B. Hamilton annuity plan have cordial endorsement out this way, and most of the preachers over here would say to ZION'S HERALD editor: "Them's our sentiments too."

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Flowers
Given
Away**

To BURLINGTON, I will make 2
New Scotchless Double
Sweet Peas, Fuchsia
Bicolor, and a
Glanded Bulbs—fancy
colored, lovely sprays all colors,
nothing out of season.
Marguerite Carnations—give
elegant bouquets in 4 mos. from seed.
I put Fanny—The Alice, James
and every color.
Poppy—Golden child, nothing
makes a grander show. I packed Sweet Pea—Black
and white, and a few more.
I put, Fuchsia, fancy made, includes many wonderful color.
I put Calceolae Pinks, all colors, and a flower everyone
likes, very color.
—over 100 kinds that will grow and bloom freely.

The above are selling for \$1.00, but as I have grown 100,000 and
cannot easily be introduced at this price, I will give them away
complete lot, for only 50 cents per package, making one. They
will bloom this season and make a great display. Order
now before they are gone. I will send you a packet and lovely
Flowers FREE with each order. Full of Bargains.

OF IF you send me Money Order, a Fresh Water
Garden, 100, 100 sent extra, I will free.

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Breck's "New Life" Fern is similar to the once famous strain of which so much was expected, but being all of its merits, but none of its faults. While the Strataceni, not being a fixed type, deteriorated, the "New Life" has remained wonderfully, until now in its perfected state we do not hesitate to recommend it as the best main crop fern for market or private use in existence.

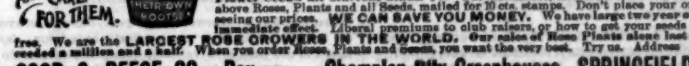
Strong grower, perpetual bearer, extra large pods, right size fronds. Quality! Nothing like it. Pkt. 100, pt. \$5. or 500, pk. \$2.00. Carriage paid. Our 1895 illustrated catalogue mailed free. Replete with news about novelties, standard varieties of flower and vegetable seeds, and the most approved agricultural and horticultural implements. It contains particulars of our unique offer to duplicate first prices offered by all the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies in the United States.

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ELECTRIC LIGHT
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THE CONFERENCE.

(Continued from Page 4.)

once we take the boat for Bucksport, where we arrive in time to take dinner with our family.

The record of another quarter is made, and soon will be sealed to await the time when the books shall be opened. In these ramblings we have tried to give the plain, unvarnished facts to the reader in order that some inquiring friends might get a clearer idea of what a presiding elder's work is. This has been one of the "easy trips." The following is the summary: Preached 46 times; administered the sacrament 36 times; held 10 quarterly conferences; baptized 4; traveled by team 667 miles, by boat and rail 122 miles. On account of storm and failure of steamboat to run, have missed two appointments during the quarter. Through the kindness of the pastors, 10 charges that I could not reach in the weeks devoted to this quarter's work have had their quarterly meetings, conducted either by the pastor or by some neighboring preacher. For this kindness on the part of the brethren, I wish to record my heartfelt thanks.

Our heart goes out in grateful praise to the Giver of all good for the gracious outpouring of His Spirit that is being felt in many parts of the district. May the work continue until the entire field is swept with revival flame and many new-born souls join in the refrain,

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all."

SHUNBRAW.

Bangor District.

Corinna.—The interest on this field gradually increases under the ministrations of Rev. U. G. Lyons. At our last visit the pastor and wife presented their infant daughter, "Frances Willard," for holy baptism.

St. Albans.—The pastor, Rev. L. I. Holway, has been holding extra meetings since January. Rev. Norman LaMarsh assisted two weeks in February. A few have been converted and reclaimed and the church has been greatly encouraged. The Bangor District Association met here, Feb. 24-25, which served as an inspiration to the work also.

Hartland.—Rev. Ellisa Skinner is supplying this church for the present and will continue till Conference. He is highly appreciated by the people, having been their pastor years ago. Hartland and St. Albans will be united in one charge next year.

Harmony and Athens.—The pastor, Rev. W. Larmond, is engaged in revival work, having called to his aid an evangelist. May the good work prosper!

Dexter.—The pastor, Rev. C. H. McElhiney, preaches grand sermons to good congregations. At his afternoon service in Ripley people from adjoining towns ride miles to hear him. The advent of a little daughter has made glad the hearts of pastor and wife.

Dover.—Since January three conversions have occurred and several have been received into full connection. The church is in hearty co-operation with the pastor, Rev. C. O. Whidden, and "esteem him very highly in love for his works' sake."

Atkinson and Sebec.—Rev. C. H. Johnsonett, the pastor, plods on. With no drums and no banners, still there is an onward march of triumph. The church has put on strength, sinners have been converted, and wanderers have returned.

Brownville.—Rev. J. B. Jones is supplying this church for the present, preaching in Welsh and English. There are about 400 Welsh people in the town, and as they have no shepherd, we are trying to care for them.

Houlton.—From the ashes of the old pulp mill has come a plant larger and more permanent than the first, which promises added prosperity to the town. The work of our church is being looked after by a local preacher, Rev. G. D. Batey, who dwells in his "own hired house" and largely supports himself. Large and enthusiastic congregations are gathered and much interest is manifested. On a recent visit, after preaching a revival sermon, ten young people came to the altar for prayers. The indications were favorable for a tidal wave of salvation. Two were baptized at the close of the service. Twenty-seven have started to be Christians, and 45 have united with the young people's society.

Houlton.—A grand work has been going on for the last month. The pastor, Rev. L. E. White, has been assisted in pentecostal services by Dr. Collins and Rev. H. N. Brown. Crowds of people have attended these meetings. Six hundred were at the closing service. Fifteen have been converted and many have reached their personal pentecost. The work of God goes steadily on.

CONANT.

New Hampshire Conference.

Manchester District.

The Preachers' Meeting at Hillsboro Bridge, Feb. 19-20, brought together the largest attendance of the pastors that we have seen in years. The pastor at Hillsboro, Rev. T. E. Cramer, had sent personal appeals to every one to be there, and in most cases received an affirmative response. Several were hindered, but twenty-three were on hand. All were pleased to greet our old friend, Rev. H. A. Spencer, who was on his way to Boston and came that way to see his brethren. He was at home among us, and we wished him back in our ranks.

Revs. Flak and Cairns preached excellent sermons.

Wednesday forenoon was devoted to the subject of revivals. Mr. Spencer led off on "The Essential Elements in a Genuine Revival." He was followed by G. H. Hardy on "Why Have Special Revival Meetings?" "Other Methods of Securing Revival Results" was opened by W. Woods. G. W. Buzzell spoke on "The Pastor His Own Evangelist." "Caring for the Fruits of a Revival" was discussed by Dr. Hills and C. W. Taylor. An interesting review of Dr. Peck's "The Revival and the Pastor" was given by C. E. Eaton; and L. D. Bragg spoke of Mr. Mills and his work in Manchester.

After an excellent dinner, served by the la-

dies, we spent an hour with church finances. A most excellent and interesting paper on "How to Pay a Church Debt," was read by C. H. Farnsworth, followed by J. H. Vincent. G. H. Clark advocated the plan of giving a tenth. C. H. Howard, though not a pastor, spoke as a layman on "Business Methods in Church Finances." Revs. Buzzell and Tregart discussed "Sunday Observance;" B. P. Judd, "Politics and Morals;" and T. A. Dorion, "City Mission Work." Following the sermon of Mr. Cairns was a largely-attended communion service.

We were glad to see so many of the pastors present, and the people of Hillsboro and vicinity turned out in large numbers.

Upward of thirty have united with the church within a few weeks—the youngest being twelve years of age and the eldest seventy, while every decade between had its representatives. The pastor has been unanimously invited to return another year.

The King's Daughters of Main St. Church, Nashua, have written a very kind letter of sympathy to the presiding elder's wife in her affliction. These things go a long way in helping bear life's burdensome burdens.

Rev. G. W. Buzzell is nearing the end of his fourth year at Marlboro. They have been years of excellent success. Nearly \$7,000 in cash have been raised during this time. The church repairs are paid within \$600. There is an excellent religious spirit in the society. A unanimous request comes for the pastor's return a fifth year.

The little society at West Swasey is growing. During the pastorate of Rev. J. Cairns they have trebled their membership. Congregations are increasing all the time.

There were never larger or more interested congregations at Keene than now. The Sunday-school average is nearly 200. The pastor, Rev. J. Cairns, is giving a series of illustrated talks on the Tabernacle on Wednesday mornings. Large congregations are in attendance. The large church is well filled every Sunday evening. Quite a number have been converted during the year. At a fully-attended quarterly conference they gave a unanimous and enthusiastic invitation to the pastor to return for a third year.

The people of St. James', Manchester, took advantage of Rev. L. D. Bragg's birthday to show their appreciation of his services and their kindly feeling by presenting him a beautiful Bible and his wife a silver pie knife. He has rendered excellent service to this church during his stay with them.

The society at Fitzwilliam are very desirous for the return of the pastor, Rev. B. P. Judd, who is closing his second year with them. He has done excellent work.

B.

New England Conference.

Boston Preachers' Meeting.—At the Preachers' Meeting next Monday the bill pending in the State Legislature for the adoption of the Norwegian system of controlling the liquor traffic will be the subject of discussion. Rev. C. M. Melden, of Brockton, will speak in its support and to the measure. A speaker in its support will be secured, and the name will be announced in the Boston daily papers.

Boston South District.

Boston, Bromfield St.—Dr. L. B. Bates welcomed 10 into full membership, on Sunday, March 3. He baptized at the same service 2 Chinamen. There are now 20 Chinamen members of this church.

Dorchester St., South Boston.—On March 3, 8 were received on probation and 1 by letter. This makes an addition of 37, either in full connection or on probation, since the first communion service in the new church, the first Sunday of December. The Junior Epworth League of this church, which has been recently organized and numbers about 60, gave a most delightful entertainment on Wednesday, Feb. 27, under the direction of their superintendent, Mrs. Nazarian, and their musical director, Miss Alma Speight. Rev. A. H. Nazarian, pastor.

St. John's, South Boston.—The fourth quarterly conference was favored with the presence of Presiding Elder Thorndike of the Springfield District, as well as of Dr. Mansfield, who was in the chair. The eldership was evidently prepared for formidable "complaints and appeals," but none were presented. The numerous reports, made in writing, showed an encouraging condition of affairs. Within eleven months the Sunday-school has made a net gain of 98 in membership. Since Dec. 1, 60 persons have been received on probation and 6 into full connection. The return of the present pastor, Rev. W. T. Ferrin, for a fourth year's term of service, was unanimously requested. Sunday, March 3, 2 were received from probation, 2 by letter, and 8 on probation.

West Medway.—At the fourth quarterly conference the pastor, Rev. Arthur Bonner, reported all departments in good condition, and his return for another year was requested.

U.

Worcester.—Affairs here have moved with their usual energy since my last communication.

Webster Square.—A most excellent concert was given under the management of Dr. Balcom, netting a goodly increase to the treasury of the Willing Workers and greatly pleasing the large audience in attendance. The church work is well in hand, and Rev. W. N. Richardson will undoubtedly be his own successor the coming Conference year. Feb. 4, the W. H. M. Society held its monthly meeting with this church, at which Mrs. L. W. Staples read a most interesting report of the annual meeting at Williamsport, Pa.

Laurel St.—The pastor here, Rev. J. P. Kennedy, is abundant in good work, holding recently, with the aid of Rev. W. J. Thompson, of Grace Church, a series of revival meetings which not only quickened helpfully the church, but won to personal service to Christ some who had been halting between two opinions.

The feature of the month of February was the meeting of the Worcester Social Union with this church, at which over two hundred sat down to supper. The address was given by Dr. Brodbeck, on "Why am I a Methodist?" a vigorous, outspoken and eloquent presentation of Methodist economy, doctrine and history, lighted up with pungent wit and appropriate incident. It did Worcester Methodism good.

Coral Street.—Rev. J. H. Emerson is busy carrying on revival meetings, and has summoned to his aid all the local pastors. Excellent results are hoped for.

Grace Church.—Activity and energy evidently characterize our friends at Grace, judging from numerous local notices. A boys' choir will be the feature of the coming Conference

year. A reception was recently given by the members of the Chinese Sunday-school, which proved a very interesting occasion. Rev. W. J. Thompson enjoys fully the confidence and esteem of his church, and will doubtless be returned another year.

Park Avenue and the Lake. under Rev. Alonso Sanderson's energetic supervision, assisted by Revs. Elson and Mason, of the Theological School—young men of exceptional ability and promise—are making fine progress, and in a few years will be desirable Conference appointments. Park Avenue Church has led all New England churches in the adoption of individual cups for communion, having used them now for some months. Mr. Sanderson and the churches are greatly pleased with them.

Trinity is actively engaged in the diversified activities of a large church, the social and missionary departments being especially alert. Washington's Birthday was duly observed by the Ladies' Circle with supper and entertainment, the redoubtable George being conspicuous in his old-time costume, while ladies and children of "ye olden time" afforded us a glimpse of Revolutionary days. On Monday, Feb. 25, Miss Fannie J. Sparks gave us, under the auspices of the Girls' Mission Band, a most thoroughly enjoyable lecture and costume entertainment on "India: Her Customs and Religions." The pleasing address, the clear enunciation and the excellent matter of the speaker held the audience in closest attention, while the impersonation by local talent, with the aid of beautiful India costumes furnished by Miss Sparks, of the castes and customs of the people of India, made it one of the most enjoyable and profitable evenings ever spent in Trinity. The worshipping of idols, the marriage of little girls, the ceremonies attending them, the woful condition of child widows, and other features of India life, were not only of great interest, but of highest instruction. This unique entertainment should be seen and heard, if possible, in all our churches.

We are now busy in preparing for what we hope will be an annual parish supper, at which all members of the church and congregation over fifteen will banquet together at the invitation of the official members of the church. Letters will be read from absent ones, a pleasing literary program will be carried out, and all members will feel that the church is one family in which the family spirit is to be cultivated and strengthened.

The Worcester Circuit of the Epworth Leagues held a meeting, Feb. 19, with the Shrewsbury League. Large delegations went from Worcester and neighboring towns. The church was crowded, and the evening was delightfully and profitably spent. The speaker was Rev. E. H. Hughes, who gave a masterly address on "Motives of Patriotism." If that is a fair sample of the young man from West Virginia, we will let him come again.

J. D. P.

Boston North District.

Charlestown, Monument Square.—Rev. G. W. Mansfield, pastor, welcomed 7 persons on probation, 3 by letter, 2 from probation, and baptized 4. The regular services are well attended and full of religious fervor.

Trinity, Cambridge.—The auxiliary of the W. F. M. Society is enjoying great prosperity. On March 6 an afternoon meeting prepared a box for Korea, and after an elegant tea, an evening program on India was carried out. The given address was given by Miss M. A. Nichols. This church recently raised \$108.25 for the Newfoundland sufferers.

Worthington St., Lowell.—On the 5th inst., the fourth quarterly conference held its session, and transacted a large amount of business. Reports financial and spiritual showed the society to be in a flourishing condition. By a rising vote the pastor, Rev. E. T. Curnick, was unanimously invited to return another year.

Saxonville.—Despite the hard times, the condition of things on this old charge, financially as well as spiritually, is very encouraging. The missionary collection, especially, is very good. The three years' pastorate of Rev. I. A. Meier has been very successful and satisfactory. The Ladies' Society of this church, at a late meeting, passed eminently appreciative resolutions in memory of Mrs. Martha B. Haven, lately deceased, sister of the late Bishop E. O. Haven. Mrs. Haven was a woman of eminent sweetness and saintliness of character and life. Saxonville was the home of Bishop Haven in the days of his youth.

Newton Lower Falls.—No society in the Conference, perhaps, certainly not on Boston North District, has felt the pressure of the late financial depression more severely than the small and struggling one at Newton Lower Falls. Through the persevering and heroic efforts of its members and friends, however, it has thus far maintained its footing, successfully contending against apparently almost overwhelming odds. Meantime, one of the most important factors among the financial agencies of this church has for a long period been, and still is, the Ladies' Union Society. When the new church edifice was built, a few years since, this society raised hundreds of dollars for its furnishing. It steadily cares for the paragonage, and pays the salary of the organist. Besides this, during this past year of exceptional financial distress, this society has already raised and paid over into the church treasury for current expenses the sum of \$150. Its president is the pastor's wife; its very efficient secretary and treasurer is Mrs. C. F. Ford. Rev. R. H. Howard, pastor.

Boston East District.

Lynn Common.—The labors of Rev. W. A. Dunnett with this church were successful. Fully two hundred persons requested prayers. About one hundred professed conversion. The pastor, Dr. N. T. Whitaker, has already received 64 on probation. Others will unite with other churches in Lynn. The church heartily sustained the meetings and was greatly quickened in spiritual life. The collections for various objects this year are generous. The missionary apportionment will be fully raised. Each of the five departments in the Sunday-school is prosperous. The Epworth League is an ever-increasing power for good. The year has been one of steady growth and prosperity.

Lindendale Church, Malden.—The collections from the churches assigned to this church for the Church Aid have been very liberal considering the hard times, most of them equalling and some exceeding the amount given last year. The

(Continued on Page 18.)

Sickness Among Children

is prevalent at all seasons of the year, but can be avoided largely when they are properly cared for. *Infant Health* is the title of a valuable pamphlet accessible to all who will send address to the N. Y. Condensed Milk Co., N. Y. City.

SPRING HINTS.

Some Good and Necessary Advice at this Season.

There are Some Things we Must Surely Do.

And This Thing is By Far the Most Important of Them All.

Everybody needs a spring medicine—a remedy which will strengthen and invigorate the system, and tone up the action of all the organs. The change from cold to warm weather causes a depression of the vital forces, resulting in weakened nerves, impure blood, and inactive organs.

Our esteemed correspondent, Mrs. A. S. Gould, writes us from Garland, Me., some facts in regard to this subject which will be of great interest and value just at this season:—

"Through the loss of my mother, the sickness of my husband, and the extra work which fell upon me, I was thrown into a condition of nervous and physical exhaustion. I grew constantly worse. I cannot find words to express that terrible feeling that existed through my whole system—a feeling of utter weakness and prostration, with strange nervous sensations.

"My right foot was so bad it was with great difficulty I could walk. I had to place my foot every way to keep from falling. My hands and arms were weak, numb and prickly. I was very tired all the time. There was a heavy, dull feeling in my limbs. Nights they seemed like dead weights. When out riding a mile distance, I would feel as though I had lost the use of them. I would move my fingers and arms to see if I could. I expected any day to be found paralyzed.

"Then I began to take Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy. The first bottle did not seem to help me much, but the second bottle did, and made me better. I kept on using it.



MRS. A. S. GOULD.

"Now I'm feeling well, can do all my work and sleep well nights. I feel as though a great burden had been rolled away from me. I am doing a great amount of work every day and often walk, besides, as much as two miles.

"I think I will pass for a smart old lady, so much for Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy! I can truly say it has done wonders for me. I cannot speak too much in praise of it, for it has been the greatest blessing to me.

"I only wish other people afflicted with disease would try it—not one bottle, but several, in order to give it a fair trial. I truly think they would never be sorry. My earnest prayer is that this wonderful remedy may go out into the wide world to sick and suffering humanity."

If you want to be perfectly strong and healthy the best possible thing to do is to take this great curer and strengthener. You can be cured quicker in the spring than at any other season. You must take a spring medicine, every one knows that, and Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy is the best and most certain, because it always cures.

It is not a patent medicine, but the prescription of the most successful living specialist in curing nervous and chronic diseases, Dr. Greene, of 34 Temple Place, Boston, Mass. He has the largest practice in the world, and this grand medical discovery is the result of his vast experience. The great reputation of Dr. Greene is a guarantee that his medicine will cure, and the fact that he can be consulted by any one, at any time, free of charge, personally or by letter, gives absolute assurance of the beneficial action of this wonderful medicine.

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DARKNESS AND DAYLIGHT IN NEW YORK
By Helen Campbell, and Capt. Myron, Chief of U. S. Police. With an account of his thirty years' experience as a great detective written by himself. 746 pages. 250 superb illustrations from photographs of real life. With introduction by Rev. Lyman Abbott.

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HARTSHORN'S SELF-ACTING SHADE-ROLLERS

NOTICE
HARTSHORN'S
THE GENUINE
HARTSHORN



Don't put up with smoking or smelly lamps or breaking chimneys.

Write Geo A Macbeth Co, Pittsburgh, Pa, for "Index to Chimneys"; and make your dealer get the right shape and size and glass.

Pearl glass, pearl top, tough glass.

Don't Put It Off.

The necessity of a spring medicine is universally admitted. This is the best time of year in which to purify the blood, to restore the lost appetite, and to build up the entire system, as the body is now peculiarly susceptible to benefit from medicine. The great popularity attained by Hood's Sarsaparilla, owing to its real merit and its remarkable success, has established it as the very best medicine to take in the spring. It cures scrofula, salt rheum, and all humors, biliousness, dyspepsia, headache, kidney and liver complaints, catarrh, and all affections caused or promoted by low state of the system or impure blood. Don't put it off, but take Hood's Sarsaparilla now. It will do you good.

Church Register.

HERALD CALENDAR.

W. H. M. S. meeting, at Beverly, Mass.,	March 14
Dedication of 1st M. E. Church, Pawtucket, R. I.,	March 30
Reception to Bishop Merrill, at Cadet Armory Hall, Salem, evening,	April 3
Maine Chautauque Union Assembly, at Fryeburg,	July 23-Aug. 10
CONFERENCE.	PLACE. TIME. BISHOP.
New England, Salem, Mass.,	April 3 Merrill.
N. E. Southern, Providence, R. I.,	" 3 Walden.
New York, Kingston, N. Y.,	" 3 Newman.
New York East, Stamford, Conn.,	" 3 Warren.
New Hampshire, Concord, N. H.,	" 10 Merrill.
Vermont, Waterbury, Vt.,	" 10 Foss.
Northern N. Y., Herkimer, N. Y.,	" 17 Mallalieu.
Troy, Saratoga Sp'gs, N. Y.,	" 17 Walden.
Maine, Saco, Me.,	May 1 Bowman.
East Maine, Bucksport, Me.,	" 1 Bowman.

NOTICE.—The ladies of the Clarendon St. Baptist Church will hold a Ladies' Memorial Service in honor of their pastor, Rev. A. J. Gordon, D. D., in the Clarendon St. Baptist Church, on Wednesday, March 30, at 2.30 p. m. In this service all Christian ladies of Boston and vicinity are invited to participate. Addresses by Mrs. Joseph Cook, Mrs. Emily L. McLaughlin, Mrs. James M. Gray and others. Gentlemen are cordially invited to occupy the galleries.

W. F. M. S.—The twenty-sixth anniversary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society will be celebrated in Tremont St. M. E. Church, at 7.30 o'clock on the evening of March 23. Addresses will be made by Mrs. Joseph Cook, Mrs. Emily McLaughlin and Miss Fannie J. Sparks.

Business Notices.

READ the last column on the 15th page for announcement of the latest publications of the Methodist Book Concern.

For Over Fifty Years

Mrs. WINELOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

Dr Strong's Sanitarium

Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

A popular resort for health, change, rest, or recreation all the year. Elevator, electric bells, steam, sun-parlor, and promenade on the roof. Suites of rooms with baths. Dry, tonic air. Saratoga waters and winter sports. Massage, Electricity, all baths and all health appliances. New Turkish and Russian baths. Send for illustrated circular.

ITALIAN M. E. CHURCH.—SPECIAL SERVICES from March 11 to 15. Rev. Gaetano Conte will be assisted by Rev. Francesco Pesaturo, of Newark, N. J. Monday, March 11, 7 p. m. (301 North St.), "A Bankrupt Banker," sermon by Rev. Mr. Conte. Tuesday and Wednesday, same place and time, service conducted by Rev. Mr. Pesaturo. Thursday, 7 p. m., 170 Hanover St., Epworth League reception and patriotic conference. Friday, 7 p. m., 301 North St., Conference, Rev. Mr. Pesaturo. Sunday, March 17, 9 a. m., prayer-meeting, 346 North St., Mrs. Conte, leader; 10.30, Sabbath-school, 170 Hanover St., sermon for children, with stereopticon; 1.30 p. m., 31 North St., missionary meeting; reception of probationers into full connection; also baptism. Addresses by Rev. G. Conte and F. Pesaturo. Monday, 19th, 7 p. m., 31 North St., patriotic meeting, with illustrations by Rev. F. Pesaturo. Every week-day from 3 to 4 p. m., meetings for prayer and singing at 170 Hanover St.

NEW ENGLAND SOUTHERN CONFERENCE.—DEAR FATHERS AND BROTHERS: Please look in the next issue of this paper for transportation notice. Halsey, Ala. Geo. M. HAYLEN.

WANTED.—Mallalieu Seminary needs a financial agent. A rare opportunity is here afforded any person well recommended to enter a pleasant field of labor and help build up one of our best schools in the South. For further particulars, address the president, Rev. Geo. M. HAYLEN, D. D., Kinsey, Henry Co., Ala.

MAINE CONFERENCE ITINERANTS' INSTITUTE.—The classes will all meet at the church on Wednesday forenoon, May 1, at 9.30. The pastor will then assign each class to a room for the examinations. The business meeting will be held in the afternoon at 5 o'clock. E. O. TRAYER, Pres.

NOTICE TO THE PREACHERS OF NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—All money for the W. H. M. S. must be received before March 23, in order to be credited in the Minutes. The voucher of the treasurer of the W. H. M. S. is to be accepted at Conference; therefore no vouchers are required from pastors.

Mrs. S. W. FLOTT, Conf. Cor. Sec'y W. H. M. S.

Marriages.

RAWSON—JOHNSON—In Enfield, Mass., Feb. 27, by Rev. Wm. Ferguson, Charles A. Rawson and Mrs. Ida M. Johnson, both of New Salem, Mass.

MARDEN—HUTTON—Feb. 28, by the same, Robert H. Marden and Margaret Hutton, both of Enfield.

JOHNSON—GILPIN—March 5, by the same, Robert Johnson and Jane Gilpin, both of Enfield.

Deaths.

PAULKNER—Died, in Portsmouth, R. I., Jan. 4, Parker R. P. Paulkner.

POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.

Rev. W. W. Colburn, Waltham, Mass.

Money Letters from March 4 to 11.

J. A. Brownell, C. E. Beale, Ross Benson, E. L. M. Barnes, A. P. Camphor, W. N. Clark, C. A. Cederberg, B. M. Couch, M. W. Carlisle, Cleveland Baking Powder Co., Dauchy & Co., Orrin Daggett, G. W. Gossling, R. B. Hassett, J. H. Hollingsworth, Jos. Hollingshead, H. C. Heath, C. N. Hinckley, D. B. Ingraham, G. A. Luce, O. A. Landre, W. A. Loughton, J. F. Meredith, R. S. Moore, Chas. McFarland, W. H. Moore, F. Nicholson, Mrs. M. Niles, John A. Ogden, H. L. Pray, P. T. Pomeroy, R. B. Robinson, W. R. Ray, Jesse Stone, G. M. Smiley, W. H. Sharpe & Co., Mrs. E. J. Blackpole, C. W. Smith, J. H. Thompson, C. J. Tibbets, J. Tregaskis, W. O. Townsend, C. H. Tower, D. G. Tower, W. J. Wilson, F. J. Wagner, John Wentworth.

DOVER DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS.

[Corrected list.]

EXPLANATION.—"P. E." is for support of Presiding Elder. "Bishop" is for support of Bishops. "C. Ex." is for Church Extension. "F. Aid" is for Freedmen's Aid. "C. Q." is for Conference Claimants. "G. C. Ex." is the expense of General Conference delegates in 1895. If the apportionment is paid this year, no call will be made for that cause next year. Pay this money to the presiding elder and take a receipt. Bishops' claim must be paid pro rata with that of pastor and presiding elder.

	P. E.	Bishop.	C. Ex.	F. Aid.	C. Q.	G. C. Ex.
Amesbury,	\$70	\$17	\$30	\$30	\$17	\$10
Auburn,	13	4	6	6	4	3
Brookfield,	4	1	3	3	1	1
Candia,	10	3	4	4	3	2
Chester,	13	4	6	6	4	3
Dover,	113	26	56	56	26	13
E. Hampstead,	8	3	4	4	3	2
E. Kingston,	8	3	4	4	3	2
E. Rochester,	28	9	14	14	9	5
E. Wolfboro',	8	3	4	4	3	2
Epping,	28	9	14	14	9	5
Exeter,	44	14	23	23	14	8
Greenland,	28	10	14	14	10	6
Hampton,	30	7	10	10	7	4

HAVERHILL:

First Church,	70	19	35	35	19	10
Grace Church,	100	35	50	50	35	11
Third Church,	18	5	8	8	5	3
Kingston,	12	4	6	6	4	2

LAWRENCE:

First Church,	113	35	50	50	35	13
Garden Street,	98	33	45	45	33	11
St. Mark's,	28	9	14	14	9	5
St. Paul's,	16	5	8	8	5	3

Lowell, Centralville,	28	9	14	14	9	5
Merrimackport,	13	4	6	6	4	2
Methuen,	30	11	14	14	11	6
Milton Mills,	10	4	6	6	4	2
Moultonville,	8	3	4	4	3	2
Newmarket,	28	9	14	14	9	5
North Wakefield,	4	1	3	3	1	1
Portsmouth,	44	14	23	23	14	8
Raymond,	16	5	8	8	5	3
Rochester,	72	18	36	36	18	10
Salisbury,	44	14	23	23	14	8
Somersworth,	72	18	36	36	18	10
Sandown,	4	2	3	3	2	1
Smithtown,	16	5	8	8	5	3
South Newmarket,	28	10	14	14	10	6
Tuftonboro',	8	3	4	4	3	2
Wolfboro' Junction,	16	5	8	8	5	3
West Hampstead,	8	3	4	4	3	2

G. W. NORRIS, P. E.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE BOSTON NORTH DISTRICT EPWORTH LEAGUE will be held at the Epworth Church, Cambridge, on Wednesday, March 23. There will be three sessions, beginning at 10, 1.30 and 7.30. Papers and addresses will be presented with reference to all departments of the Epworth League during the day sessions, and in the evening an address will be delivered by Rev. E. H. Hughes on "The Portrait of Jesus." All the Leagues on the district are requested to send at least three delegates. The annual election of officers will occur at the afternoon session. Entertainment will be furnished by the Bridge Chapter of the Epworth Church. Come in the morning and stay throughout the convention. CHAS. M. HALL, Dist. Pres.

noon session. Entertainment will be furnished by the Bridge Chapter of the Epworth Church. Come in the morning and stay throughout the convention. CHAS. M. HALL, Dist. Pres.

N. E. SOUTHERN CONFERENCE.—Statistical blanks have been mailed to all members of the Conference and supplies. If any have failed to receive them, please notify the undersigned.

R. D. DYSON, Niantic, Conn.

W. F. M. S.

Framingham District of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society met at Cohasset, Tuesday, Feb. 12. Rev. B. B. Sweetser, of Marlboro, led the morning devotions. Mrs. D. H. Elia presided at the business meeting which followed. After the reading of the secretary's report of the last meeting, Mrs. Hanaford read a letter of greeting from Miss Louise M. Hodgkins, president of the New England Branch, and editor of the *Heavenly Woman's Friend*. Reports were given from nine of the thirteen societies comprising the district. These reports show an increasing interest, especially among the children, in the work of the Society, and a goodly sum of money raised in various ways for the support of the work. Short sketches on the life and work of several of our missionaries were read, the papers being full of interest. At noon the Cohasset Mission Band marched into the church, two by two, filling the front seats. One of the girls gave a recitation of "The Forgotten Mission Box," which was followed by a song by the Band and a short talk, by Dr. Mary Christlany, to the children.

The noon hour proved the basket-lunch plan a success. Tea, coffee and fruit were served by the Cohasset ladies.

Devotional exercises of the afternoon were conducted by Rev. F. A. Everett, of Ashland. A very interesting letter from Miss Josephine Paine, of Seoul, Korea, was read by Mrs. Hanaford. This letter, together with the sketch of Miss Paine's life by Mrs. Morrell, of Marlboro, brought this earnest worker very near to us. Mrs. W. C. Townsend, of Milford, read a most suggestive and helpful paper from the subject, "Some Means of Spreading the Gospel." The address of the afternoon was by Dr. Mary Christlany, who gave a brief but charming sketch of her own life and then told us of her work in India. In closing she said: "Oh, this is lovely work! I consider it one of the highest callings. If one wants entrance into the best society, let them join the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society." A. KNIGHTS, Sec.

Reopening at Detroit, Maine.

Detroit is a part of Newport charge, Bangor District, of which Rev. William L. Brown is pastor. The church edifice at this place has long been in great need of repairs. The time seemed favorable, and early in the Conference year the much-needed work was begun. Subscriptions of both cash and labor were secured, and work commenced in the early fall. The building was raised upon a new foundation of granite, thus making a commodious basement, which has been well drained and fitted with a furnace; the chimneys have been rebuilt; the outside of the church has been completely renovated with clapboards and shingles, the raising of the tower, and attractive painting in four colors. Within the gallery has been lowered, the walls plastered and whitened, the pulpit platform carpeted, the furniture re-covered and the organ put in good condition. It is hoped that more money may be expended in beautifying the interior. All bills, amounting to \$600, are paid. The reopening services were conducted by the pastor, and a generous people rejoiced at the completion of so good a work. No outside aid has been asked in the enterprise. This charge, with both churches in fine condition and extended improvements made upon the parsonage at Newport, during the present pastorate, has something of material prosperity. May the glory of the Lord be revealed throughout all our borders!

William Arthur, the secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, was once asked for the secret of its success in raising missionary money. He answered: "The ministers make the cause their own and all are invited to contribute." When the minister makes any cause committed to him by the church "his own," success is assured. There is all the difference between success and failure in doing the work of the ministry perfunctorily and in being absorbed by it. The people, too, are very discriminative, and unmistakably discover the spirit and purpose which actuate the minister.

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER

{Spring} {No. 1.}

IN NERVOUS DYSPESIA.

Wm. O. Baskerville, M. D., Oxford, N. C., Member of N. C. Medical Society, writes under date of October 3, 1893, as follows: "About August or September of 1891, I was very much troubled with torpidity of the liver and disorder of the digestive organs; later in the fall and winter I found that my urine was laden with uric acid, and I was a victim of Nervous Prostration and Nervous Dyspepsia. I tried the most approved remedies for such ailments, and consulted several of the most noted physicians of our country. Failing to obtain any relief, I determined to visit the Buffalo Lithia Springs of Virginia, where I spent a period of six weeks during the summer of 1892. I was entirely restored to health; my nervous symptoms all disappeared, and my general health was rapidly restored to its normal condition. Since that time my health has continued as good as at any period of my life. As a tonic, anti-dyspeptic and restorative, the BUFFALO LITHIA WATER is without a peer."

Dr. P. A. Flournoy, Charlotte Court House, Virginia. "My Nervous System was shattered, my digestion difficult and painful, the stomach often rejecting the lightest possible article of food. I was greatly depressed in spirit, and had but little hope of any improvement in my condition. Upon a diet of tea and crackers, I visited the Buffalo Springs and put myself upon the Water of Spring No. 1. I was soon conscious of an increase both of the appetite and digestive power, and at the same time of a gradual increase of Nervous Vigor. This improvement continued through a protracted stay at the Springs, and to such an extent that before leaving I was able to eat with impunity any article of food found upon the hotel table. I left the Springs fully restored, and returned home to enter actively upon the arduous duties of my profession." This Water is for sale by druggists generally, or in cases of one dozen half-gallon bottles \$5.00 f.o.b. at the Springs. Descriptive pamphlets sent to any address. THOMAS F. GOODE, Proprietor, Buffalo Lithia Springs, Va.

WALTER BAKER & CO.

The Largest Manufacturers of PURE, HIGH GRADE COCOAS AND CHOCOLATES

On this Continent, have received HIGHEST AWARDS

Industrial and Food EXPOSITIONS In Europe and America.

Unlike the Dutch Process, no Alkalies or other Chemicals or Dyes are used in any of their preparations. Their delicious BREAKFAST COCOA is absolutely pure and reliable, and costs less than any on the map.

SOLD BY GROCERS EVERYWHERE.

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COUGHS and COLDS

if not promptly attended to, generally lead to Consumption. Why take the risk when

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will prevent it? Morrhuol is an

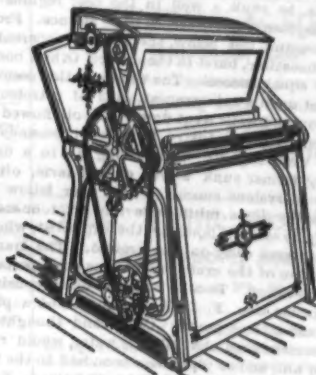
EXTRACT OF COD LIVER OIL

put up in capsules, one of which is equal to a tea-spoonful of plain oil.

For Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Weak Lungs, Blood Diseases, and Loss of Flesh.

Sold in bottles, containing 100 capsules, by all Druggists.

R. FOUGERA & CO., 25, 27, 30 North William St., New York.



Lord Macaulay on the Cotton Gin.

"What Peter the Great did to make Russia dominant, Eli Whitney's invention of the Cotton Gin has more that equaled in its relation to the power and progress of the United States."

Cotton must be planted, picked, ginned. It always has been, and probably always will be, planted and picked by hand, but it is absolutely impossible to gin it otherwise than by machinery.

The attention and ingenuity of all interested in the Cotton Industry have been taxed to the utmost to produce a machine that will perform the work of separating the lint from the seed with as little damage to the staple as possible. The old Saw Gin has now to give place to its latest competitor the Roller Gin.

The Universal Cotton Gin and Wool Borer Company are taking out patents in the principal countries, and make claim to superiority over the system now in use, on the following among other points:—

- (1) Preserve the fibre intact.
- (2) Clean the seed more thoroughly, and thus save a large amount of cotton.
- (3) Prevent the possibility of fire.
- (4) Perform the work with a minimum of power.
- (5) Require comparatively no repairs.
- (6) Require but little, if any, cleaning, and have no saws to sharpen.
- (7) Are the acme of (a) simplicity in construction, (b) effectiveness in working.
- (8) Economize in every direction.

The Company has secured as its PRESIDENT, ALFRED B. SHEPPARDSON, of the Cotton Exchange, New York, a gentleman known throughout the Cotton World; the author of "Cotton Facts" and of "The Standard Telegraphic Cipher Code for the Cotton Trade," and other works relating to the Cotton Industry.

The Company has offices in Boston and New York, and are now offering a limited number of shares, to which, with the greatest confidence, they call the attention of investors. A Hand Machine and also a full-sized Power Gin can be seen in operation. For full particulars address,

UNIVERSAL COTTON GIN AND WOOL BORER CO., Room 69, Fiske Building, 80 State St., Boston.

Our Book Table.

Wealth Against the Commonwealth. By Henry D. Lloyd. Harper & Brothers: New York. On sale by Lee & Shepard: Boston. Price, \$2.50.

The growth of the petroleum interest, of which this book treats, forms one of the most curious and thrilling chapters in the industrial history of America. The business, now one of the most considerable in the country, has been created within less than fifty years. There are three periods in its development—the period of experiment from about 1840 to 1860; the period of early success, 1860 to 1873; the period of monopoly, under the control of the Standard Oil Company, 1873 to 1894.

Though petroleum was known to the ancients, and used as a cement as far back as the building of the tower of Babel, the method of its practical use for lighting and heating purposes is a recent discovery. Men knew petroleum would burn; they did not know how to purify it for use in the house and the street. Without purifying, the light was not clear and the odor was intolerable. M. Selegne, a member of the French Academy, was the pioneer in this work. His experiments extended from 1834 to 1848. Some improvement came with every year. He announced to the Institute his expectation that petroleum would be used for lighting the streets and dwellings at no distant day, but he was regarded as a crank or visionary whose dreams could not be realized in a practical age. In the face of the unfaith of the people, he continued his experiments, and was followed by the Scotch. In America Joshua Merrill was one of the first to experiment with petroleum. Both here and in Europe the experiments proved successful. Methods of purifying the crude oil, and lamps suitable for its use, had been invented, but there was really no oil to purify. The experimenters had first to extract the oil from coal and then to purify it, which made the product too expensive for ordinary use. If the crude oil could be found, without the expense of extracting, the coal oil could be used for ordinary lighting.

In 1860 the crude oil was found in the desired quantities. Col. Drake had perfected the method of sinking artesian wells. Guided by the geologists, he sunk a well in the coal regions of Pennsylvania and "struck oil" at once. From a thousand feet below, the stream, apparently inexhaustible, burst to the surface. Others bored with equal success. The whole section seemed to rest upon a subterranean lake of petroleum. A thousand wells went down; the oil flowed in rivers. A new industry, in which thousands of men were engaged, had sprung up in a day. Every farmer sunk a well on his farm, often with marvelous success. The poor fellow of yesterday was a millionaire tomorrow, or more likely he sold his lands to the capitalist, whose agents were early on the ground. The transportation of the crude oil became an important consideration. To take it in cars was expensive. Meantime Gen. F. D. Karns suggested a pipe line and a force pump. On second thought it was remembered that oil, like water, would run down hill, and so pipes were soon laid to the refineries in Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Cleveland, New York, and Chicago. A new age of prosperity as well as light had come.

Meantime, about 1873, there was a turn in the tide. Many ships, so amply laden, began to move down stream, very slowly at first, but with ever-increasing rapidity. The undercurrent took many an operator down to destruction. Refineries closed up, the owners failed, great firms collapsed, and banks broke. All at once men in the petroleum business could not make the ends meet. The outcrop of the year would, in spite of them, exceed the income. While most firms were going to pieces, there was one little company, known first as the South Improvement, and later as the Standard Oil Company, which flourished all the more for the storm of 1873. In proportion to the ruin about it, the Standard Oil Company seemed to rise serene above the waves and to view with a certain degree of satisfaction the storm which filled the whole heavens.

It is this third phase of the petroleum business with which Mr. Lloyd, in his great book, "Wealth Against the Commonwealth," deals. The volume is a severe indictment of the Standard Oil Company. In the author's view the corporation was conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity. The record, as he brings it out, is absolutely astounding. The management has regarded neither the laws of God nor of man; it has been a peculiar law unto itself, levying taxes where it pleased and striking dead with its magic wand whoever should interpose an obstacle in the way of its progress.

The little Company of 1873 has attained, in twenty years, an absolute monopoly of the petroleum interest of the continent. It did not bore the wells, make the discoveries and inventions, or create the industry, but it has come into control of them all, often to the damage and impoverishment of the very men who created this new wealth. The original holders have been nearly all pushed aside or crushed in the onward march of this giant corporation. Its methods, on which Mr. Lloyd dwells at length, are thoroughly vicious and iniquitous. Notice two of the measures by which it has come into this absolute control of a most important industry.

The Standard Oil Company enlisted in its interest the railroads. The South Improvement Company made contracts for five years with the Erie, New York Central, the Lake Shore, the Michigan Southern, the Pennsylvania, the At-

lantic & Great Western, and their connections. What was the purport of these contracts? The railroads agreed to do these things: 1. To double freight rates; 2. Not to charge the company the increase; 3. To give the company the increase collected from all its competitors; 4. To make other changes in rates necessary to guarantee the company's success in business; 5. To destroy its competitors by high freight rates; 6. To spy out the details of its competitors' business. The railroads, in this way, became the accomplices of the Standard Oil Trust. The arrangement soon brought the whole brotherhood of refiners to grief and a great hue and cry was raised among those in the oil interest. At one time a civil war in the oil regions was imminent, and the railroad managements themselves became alarmed at their own hardihood. They were catechized in regard to those contracts, and they declared the contracts had been abrogated and were null and void. Some of the managers asserted there had been no such contracts. In the later congressional investigation these contracts were produced, and nothing was said about their abrogation. Whether abrogated or not, the railroads have adhered to the spirit of the contracts to this day.

The first step in securing in its interest the railroads, made the second one easy. Where men were ready to sell at a small price, the Company purchased the plant; but when a plucky man determined to hold out, his financial neck was wrung. They struck down everybody in the business and established a complete monopoly.

The State of Pennsylvania enacted laws against the high-handed methods of the Trust; the legislatures of Ohio and New York revoked the Company's charter, and Congress investigated its affairs; but, in spite of all these attempts, the Standard Oil Trust remains a stupendous fact in our industrial history. The gains of the Trust have been enormous. The little nest-egg of the South Improvement Company of 1862 had in 1870 grown to \$1,000,000; in 1875 to \$3,000,000; in 1882 to \$70,000,000; in 1887 to \$60,000,000; in 1892 it had risen to \$100,000,000. All this in addition to ten or twenty per cent. dividends paid each year to the stockholders. In a single period of six years the dividends amounted to the snug little sum of \$50,000,000. The New York Legislature declared it to be "the most active and possibly the most formidable moneyed power on the continent." This vast interest is really controlled and largely owned by four men, of whom John D. Rockefeller is "the head-centre." According to the New York Sun, his annual income is \$20,000,000, making him the richest man in America, perhaps in the world. This is three times the amount annually paid to the stockholders of the Bank of England.

Mr. Lloyd's book is an immense electric light, revealing the dark and intricate methods of this great Trust. The work is a mine of facts from which writers and speakers may draw at will. Many of them have been gleaned from sources inaccessible to the ordinary student. The publication of such facts broadcast over the land must prove more damaging to the corporation than the State and Congressional investigations, for it reveals to the people the iniquitous processes by which a few bold men are levying a tax on the whole people. To wrong-doers light is more dangerous than a police force, for it cannot be subelided. Light creates public opinion, and public opinion will be found mightier than the Standard Oil Trust.

Love-Songs of Childhood. By Eugene Field. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Price, \$1.

These forty-two little songs find their inspiration in the nursery. The subjects tenderly recall the days of early childhood, and the rhythm as well as the sentiment makes them delightful reading.

The Play Actress. By S. R. Crockett. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Price, \$1.

This little volume, neatly bound in buckram, with beautiful print, contains a brisk story of Scotch life, brief and admirably told.

St. John's Weeping. A Story. By M. O. McClelland. New York: Harper & Brothers. Price, \$1.

Clerc St. John, the hero of this story, was an Englishman born, but came to America and had some experience of the country from Vancouver's Island to the staked plains in Texas. The

story, into which true love creeps, is marvelously well written, and the situations are full of vivid interest to the reader.

Our Fight with Tammany. By Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, D. D. Charles Scribner's Sons: New York. Price, \$1.50.

Here is an account of the killing of the "Giants" by Jack himself. Warriors do not always know how to write; but here is a new Caesar, who knows how to sketch in a spirited way his own campaigns. The matter is taken up from the beginning and detailed in order. The issue of the book is a new broadside, discharged at a conquered enemy. In it he gives the country the secret of Tammany's overthrow. The story is graphically told. Though firmly entrenched in power and enriched by the spoils of a great city, that iniquitous organization was hurled from place and power, as Satan was cast over the battlements. The deed must remain forever famous in American annals, and the book which records the process and results will be eagerly sought by a multitude of readers. The author closes the volume with a chapter on the victory—its perils and opportunities. Tammany has a mysterious vitality. Its death may prove only a trance; the future of the city will still depend on the vigilance of patriotic citizens. To destroy evil requires extermination.

Magazines.

—Harper's for March contains a large amount of most excellent material. Caspar W. Whitney leads in a spirited article on "Fox Hunting in the United States." W. F. Seward describes "The Trial Trip of a Cruiser." Laurence Hutton gives "The Literary Landmarks of Jerusalem." Julian Ralph has a graphic account of "The Industrial Region of Northern Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia." Stephen H. Olin furnishes a graphic and instructive account of "New York's Common Schools." Richard Harding Davis gives the last chapter of "The Princess Aline," and Thomas Hardy furnishes the fourth instalment of "Hearts Insurgent." There are also four brief stories. (Harper & Brothers: New York.)

—Scribner's for March is an unusually choice number. "Flowers of the Air" is an engraving by F. S. King. President E. B. Andrews contributes a striking article on "A History of the Last Quarter-Century in the United States," illustrated and accompanied by maps, facsimiles and caricatures. F. S. King is sketched as one of the American wood-engravers. F. B. Sanborn writes delightfully of "Thoreau's Poems of Nature." George Meredith continues "The Amazing Marriage." W. F. Apthorp writes of "Orchestral Conducting and Conductors." (Charles Scribner's Sons: New York.)

—The Chautauquan for March comes well laden. S. P. Codman opens with an interesting paper on "Victoria and Her Family." D. H. Wheeler follows in an article on "Christianity and British Wealth." A. E. Daniell gives a full description of the Underground Railroad in London. The General Readings, Editorial Outlook and Woman's Table contain many other good things. (T. L. Flood: Meadville, Pa.)

—The Phrenological Journal for February has as a frontispiece a picture of Hon. John W. Goff, the attorney before the Lexow Committee, and in the late election chosen recorder of New York. Then follows a curious "Psychological Incident;" "The Character of the Thumb;" "How to Study Strangers;" and "Spurzheim as an Organizer and Teacher." All subjects are, of course, studied in their relations to the subject of phrenology. (Fowler & Wells: New York.)

—The Arena for February presents a long list of articles, among which everybody will find something to his taste. For a frontispiece we have a picture of the Countess of Aberdeen. Samuel J. Barrows leads in an able article on "Penology in Europe and America." Hon. W. J. Bryan criticizes "The President's Currency Plan." B. O. Flower gives a view of "The Italy of the Century of Sir Thomas More." "Social Parity" is treated in two articles. (Arena Publishing Company: Boston.)

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Obituaries.

Dawley.—Robert P. Dawley died at East Greenwich, R. I., Dec. 25, 1894, aged 74 years. His devoted life and three adult children were permitted to render loving service to him in his last illness. One daughter, Mrs. Geo. R. Simmons, is an active and useful member of Mathewson St. M. E. Church, Providence, R. I.; the other daughter and the son have both recently taken steps toward the Christian life.

Mr. and Mrs. Dawley have been members of Mathewson St. Church about thirteen years. He had lived a strictly moral life until he was fifty-eight years old, when he gave his heart to Christ, and ever after endeavored to live up to his profession. Something of his fidelity and trustworthiness may be inferred from the fact that he was employed by the Stonington R. R. Co. thirty-one years, until failing health compelled him to retire to farm life.

His sorrowing widow is much interested in Christian work. She waits with patience the anticipated summons to join the loved ones who have already entered into that rest which remaineth for God's people.

MATTHIAS S. KAUFFMAN.

Wiswall.—George B. Wiswall died in Roxbury, Jan. 6, 1895, aged nearly 73 years.

His father, Elisha Wiswall, died Nov. 10, 1861. Eighteen years after, the mother, in 1879. Ten years pass, and a daughter departs; and six years more, and this noble son.

Mr. Wiswall was a kindly, quiet, care-taking brother, always remaining at home and supervising domestic interests. During his years of health he took great interest in religious services, and nothing pleased him better than a fine Scriptural exegesis and a good, richly evangelical sermon. He was an intelligent observer of men and things, and felt a great interest in the prosperity and perpetuity of a broad and healthy Protestantism in our land. Though naturally reticent on religious themes, he delighted in the prayers of the minister who frequently visited the family, and based all on the meritorious offering of the ascended Messiah.

For a year and more he was an invalid, cared for by a noble, self-sacrificing sister whom he tenderly loved and whose choice ministries he greatly appreciated. Two sisters and a brother, with their households, greatly miss his departure.

His funeral was attended by a beloved cousin, Rev. Daniel Richards, of Somerville.

Thrasher.—Mrs. Louisa Lombard, wife of Samuel Thrasher, died at her home in Prescott, Mass., Jan. 2, 1895, at the age of 71 years.

She was born in Belchertown in Aug., 1823, and was left an orphan at twelve years of age. At the age of fourteen she was converted and joined the M. E. Church, remaining a member until her death. She was married to Samuel Thrasher in March, 1846, and passed all her married life in Prescott.

Both she and her husband were always active in the work of the church and enjoyed a rich Christian experience. They were often in attendance at the Laurel Park camp-meeting. The writer has known Mrs. Thrasher but a short time, and that while she was physically unable to leave her home; but his own impressions and those gained from a knowledge of her standing in the community warrant the statement that she was a true, earnest follower of Christ, and a trusted and beloved friend.

The attendance at her funeral services, held in the church at North Prescott, on Jan. 5, showed the feeling of the community toward her.

A serious illness in the spring, followed by an enfeebled condition which gave her friends cause for anxiety during the summer and autumn, left her in a condition to yield, almost without a struggle, to an attack of acute pneumonia which ended her life in two days. She has been called home; but her husband, two sons and a daughter, with their families, are left to gather up the pearls of precious memory of her life, and to prepare to meet her on the other side.

F. H. WHEELER.

Hoyt.—Mary Hildreth Scribner, wife of George H. Hoyt, died at her home in Clyde, N. Y., Jan. 3, 1895. Mrs. Hoyt was born of sterling New England stock, from which she inherited many of her own strong and amiable qualities. In New Hampshire, Dec. 19, 1825.

Her early home was in the city of Concord, N. H., where, on May 11, 1854, she was united in marriage with George H. Hoyt. About the same time she became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Three years later Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt removed from Concord to Clyde, and at once transferred their membership to the Methodist Episcopal Church in that place.

Mrs. Hoyt soon developed those qualities of heart and head which have enabled her to fill so large a place in the church and community, in both of which her influence for good has long been felt and will not soon be forgotten. For more than a quarter of a century she has been prominent in the Sunday-school, and few outside of the immediate family will more sincerely regret her loss than those who for many years have enjoyed her counsels. Her views of the work of the Christian Church were world-wide. Wherever need and ignorance were found there were her sympathies and her help. The cause of temperance and the missionary cause received her best efforts for many years. To the poor, the sorrowing and the sick of her own neighborhood she had been a friend indeed. She had that kindness and generosity of nature, and rare tact in helping without offending or humiliating, which made her gifts doubly welcome from the graciousness of the giver. In the church she was at once the humble, devoted Christian and the trusted counselor. Constant in her attendance both at public and social meetings, she was at the same time a leader in the financial work carried on by the ladies. She seemed intuitively to know the proper thing to do, the best way to do it, and how to enlist the most efficient helpers in her work.

But to Mrs. Hoyt her own home was ever the holiest place of all. There her life was given in utterly unselfish devotion to those to whom she was wife and mother. In more public positions other hands may, indeed, take up the work which hers have laid down; but in her home there is left a vacancy which can never be filled. When pain and weakness permitted, she welcomed old friends to her sick chamber, and many wondered at her cheerful spirit as the shadows lengthened. Loving hands ministered to her continually. Her husband and son, two daughters and a daughter-in-law, the entire family, watched by her bed, soothing her sufferings, as best they could, until she entered into rest. To them the sympathy of the community is ungrudgingly given.

The funeral services, held Jan. 7, were but the expression of this sympathy. The spot where she lay so peacefully resting was turned into a bower of beautiful and fragrant blossoms by the many floral tributes given by those who esteemed and loved her. The services were by request brief

and simple. One of the hymns sung, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," was her favorite, and well-expressed her life-long faith; the other, chosen by those who loved her best, expressed their hope of a reunion in the cheering chorus, "We'll never say good-by in heaven." The comforting words of the pastor, based upon the bed-rock of all Christian hope, the words, "God is love," were followed by the most appreciative and kindly words of Rev. Arthur Copeland, a former pastor of the family, and that by a prayer offered by Rev. J. C. Mead, pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

A Pastor's Tribute to Mrs. I. N. Bullens.

Will the HERALD permit from her pastor a few additional words in deserved eulogy of Mrs. I. N. Bullens, so recently and suddenly taken from her great work in Trinity Church and the Springfield District. She was perhaps better known in Western Massachusetts than any other woman of New England Methodism. With the pastors she was in frequent correspondence, and the people in most of the charges not only knew her name, but had often seen and heard her, while her active efforts as a propagandist of the Woman's Foreign Missionary work were felt constantly with unrelaxing force and success everywhere in the district. First and foremost, she was a doer. A more striking example of ceaseless planning and working, and of complete consecration of time and strength to a great cause, has seldom been given to the church. The marvel is that with the care of her home she could do so much outside work for the kingdom of God. The explanation is in two words—devotion and system. She was commonly regarded as a woman of one idea; but what a great idea it was that absorbed her! Her one idea was as broad as the universe and as high and deep as the possibilities of Christian womanhood, for it clearly meant the world for Christ, and the women of the church to be largely potential in bringing it to Him. She was really a foreign missionary; as much so in heart and consecration as the best who have given life and strength to service in foreign lands—the only difference being that while they worked as foreign missionaries abroad, she worked as one with them in spirit, in aim, in sacrifice, at home.

To class her as a foreign missionary does not exclude or depreciate the direct work she did for the Master locally and in Trinity Church. She was one of our most devoted and efficient Sabbath-school teachers. Her large class of young ladies was a training class, which constantly added to the teaching force of our school, and at the same time, as might naturally have been expected, it was a right arm of strength to Mrs. Bullens in pushing missionary interests. After teaching this class, she remained, often without the opportunity of dining, to take part as a teacher in the Chinese school near by. To see the interest of this consecrated woman in her one heathen pupil was to me a most pathetic sight. It was the one visible link which brought her into active contact with that part of God's work to which her soul and life were given, and I never doubted that the hours spent in this service—hours of sacrifice though they were—must have been her happiest and best. In Springfield there were few benevolent or evangelistic movements with which she had not been identified, and some of the best charities in our city gratefully acknowledged her as one of their founders. It need scarcely be said that she was a mother in Israel to the King's children of Trinity Church. She was also identified with the Epworth League, and, as an instance of her literary ability, the writer can testify that he heard from her lips a history of the League which, in his judgment, would have done credit to the columns of our best church papers.

Beneath all, and as the inspiration of all, were her personal devotion to Christ and her love and reverent study of the Word of God. The Northfield conventions were favorite resorts with her. There, while resting a little from labor, she laid in fresh ammunition for the larger service to which she always looked forward. There, also, she came into personal touch with some of the greatest leaders in Christian work. She was enviably rich in her acquaintance with the world's greatest and best, and her personal knowledge of these rare souls was an important part of her equipment for Christian service. Few read the Bible more than she, or loved it better, or studied it to greater advantage. One of her latest tasks of love was the effort to memorize Paul's letter to the Romans.

Sad indeed must be the devoted husband deprived of her inspiring companionship; and the church and the world, that part of it which lieth in darkness especially, are much the poorer because Abbie Bullens is no more.

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Review of the Week.

Tuesday, February 26.

—Miss Anna Gould, daughter of Jay Gould, married to the Count Castellani by Archbishop Corrigan.

—The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Bates Refrigerator case, that the U. S. patent ends with the foreign patent, affects many other patents in which millions of dollars are involved.

—The Irish land bill introduced in the Commons.

—The Cuban revolt subsiding.

—Li Hung Chang to leave Peking for Japan today on his peace mission.

Wednesday, March 6.

—The Massachusetts House defeats the Woman Suffrage bill by a vote of 137 to 87.

—Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt granted an absolute divorce from her husband.

—President Cleveland takes an outing on the lighthouse tender "Violet."

—A fire in Port of Spain, Trinidad, causes a loss of nearly \$4,000,000.

—Death of Col. R. G. Usher, ex-mayor of Lynn, and at one time warden of Massachusetts State Prison.

—The East Douglass Axe and Tool Company's employees go out on strike because of reduced wages.

—Lady Somerset and Miss Willard sail for Europe.

—Consolidation of the Examiner and the Christian Inquirer—two organs of the Baptist denomination.

—Sir Henry C. Rawlinson, known as "the father of Assyriology," dies in London.

Thursday, March 7.

—New-Chuang captured by the Japanese after a thirteen-hours' battle; the Chinese lose 1,880 killed and wounded and 600 prisoners; the victors' loss somewhat over 200 killed and wounded. Japan's second army moves on Moukden.

—The Cuban insurgents lose several battles.

—A strike in the Pittsburgh coal district for the 60-cent rate; 10,000 miners out.

—The Czar issues a decree abolishing the use of the knot in punishing criminals.

Friday, March 8.

—Great joy in St. John's, Newfoundland, on the arrival of the ship carrying Boston's relief contribution.

—The old codfish removed from its place in the Massachusetts House to the new chamber of the House.

—The Income Tax cases before the Supreme Court, on the question of constitutionality.

—Mrs. Micah Dyer, Jr., of this city, forced into bankruptcy by indorsing notes for her son, Dr. W. K. Dyer, who is interested in the Health Supply Company.

—A Woman Suffrage bill passes the Maine House.

—The British Postal Telegraph (governmental) shows a deficiency for the current year of about \$2,700,000.

—The province of Santa Clara in Cuba placed under martial law.

—Rev. W. A. Newbold, secretary of the American Church Missionary Society, confesses to having misused some \$19,000 of the Society's funds.

Saturday, March 9.

—A Florida vestibule train wrecked at Scotland, Ga., by a misplaced switch; two passengers killed and several injured.

—The Japanese capture two more Chinese towns.

—St. Louis has 122 cases of small-pox.

—Civil Service examiners will reject applicants who have been "guilty of infamous or notoriously disgraceful conduct."

—Six persons drowned by the sinking of the steamer "Longfellow" near Cincinnati.

—Two hundred Negroes reach Savannah en route to Liberia.

—Death, at Yonkers, of the well-known landscape painter, John L. Fitch, at the age of 59.

—Prof. E. R. L. Gould, of Johns Hopkins University, accepts the chair of statistics in Chicago University.

—The Woman Suffrage bill defeated in the California Senate.

Monday, March 11.

—The Haverhill strike declared off.

—The Japanese storm and capture the town of Tanchantai; the Chinese lose 2,000 dead or wounded.

—San Domingo to make ample reparation for injuries to French subjects.

—The steel contract made for the first section of the subway in this city.

—Lord Rosebery recovering from his illness.

—The peak of Orizaba in Mexico in a state of eruption.

—The Court of Claims decides that the President has power to sign bills for ten days after Congress expires.

—Terrible stories of cruelty told to the Commission of Inquiry on the Armenian atrocities.

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L. Prang & Co., as is their custom, issue this year a large variety of beautiful and artistic Easter booklets and Easter cards. One of the daintiest of their Easter publications is "The Shadow of the Angel," by Ernest Warburton Shurtleff—"a sermon in verse"—illustrated by Lisbeth B. Comins, bound in white leatherette, with an angel in colors on the cover. "Deep-blue Violets," by Katherine L. Connor, is an exquisite art book, tied with violet ribbon. There is a choice variety of cards, in floral and figure designs, from which to select for Easter remembrances.

Baleh Brothers, 38 Bromfield St., have in preparation a very important volume entitled, "The Triumphs of the Cross; or, The Supremacy of Christianity as an Uplifting Force in the Home, the School, and the Nation, in Literature and Art, in Philanthropic and Evangelistic Organization, Proven by the Facts in the Yesterday and Today of the World," by ex-President E. P. Tenney, A. M., author of "Coronation," "Constance of Acadia," "The New West," etc., with special chapters by Edward Everett Hale, Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D., Alexander Mackenzie, D. D., Bishop F. D. Huntington, President E. Benjamin Andrews, Daniel Dorchester, D. D., Hon. Robert Treat Paine, Wayland Hoyt, D. D., John L. Scudder, D. D., Russell A. Conwell, D. D., C. C. McCabe, D. D., John Henry Barrows, D. D., Joseph Cook, L. L. D., Bishop John H. Vincent, and with the collaboration of over one hundred eminent religious workers, international and interdenominational. The work is illustrated by 325 original photographs and works of art by famous masters.

A Good Lecture.

The illustrated lecture by Rev. D. N. Griffin, of Highwood, Conn., upon "Old Newgate; or, Connecticut's Convict Caverns," is commended highly by those who have heard it. It embraces interesting incidents of imprisonments and surrections, thrilling tales and traditions of torments and tortures in Tory times, exciting accounts of escapes and escapes, minings and massacres, also sensational stories and amusing anecdotes from ancient annals, with seventy illuminated illustrations or stereopticon views of Revolutionary ruins and surrounding scenery.

THE CONFERENCES.

(Continued from Page 12.)

sum realized will cut a good slice off the debt and relieve the society of a portion of the interest burden. A number of new houses are being built in the immediate neighborhood of the church, which is encouraging. This is a good opportunity for Methodist families who are seeking for moderate-priced homes conveniently accessible to Boston either by electric or steam-car, in a good locality and near an attractive church. Rev. J. H. Pillsbury, pastor.

Wesley Church, Salem.—The special religious interest in this church still continues. Nearly forty have been received on probation already as the fruit of the recent services, under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. F. F. Holway. More will follow. The outlook is encouraging. On Wednesday evening, Feb. 27, the pastor entertained the Young Men's Class of which he is the leader. Between thirty and forty were present. During the evening a very interesting talk on New Orleans was given by Mr. J. H. Bickford. Later on Mr. F. L. Howe presented the pastor with an elegant antique mahogany writing desk. The class numbers some fifty members.

Bay View.—Rev. M. G. Prescott, pastor, rejoices over two young men who have recently confessed Christ and been received on probation.

North Andover.—Sunday, March 3, 4 persons were baptized, 10 received on probation, and 6 as members in full connection. A new pipe organ, built by Gilbert & Butler, of Cambridge, has recently been put into this church. It is a very satisfactory instrument, giving the people great pleasure. Its cost is fully provided for. Rev. M. B. Pratt, pastor.

Boston North Preachers' Meeting.—One of its most delightful, interesting and profitable meetings was held, Wednesday, Feb. 27, at South Framingham. An unusually large number of ministers of the district and from beyond were present, and were richly repaid for coming by listening to the fine program.

First was read a paper by the president, Dr. James Mudge, on "Glimpses of World-wide Methodism." It showed much research, and as it dealt mainly with the less familiar foreign fields of general Methodism, it was greatly edifying and acceptable. Prof. Mitchell, of Boston University, gave a long and advanced paper on "The Fall and its Consequences." While written in a reverent and orthodox spirit, the text

of his discourse made some of the conservative brethren rub their eyes, and wonder where they were (at); especially when he said the fall was necessary to develop in our first parents the moral sense. It was an address which provoked thought, and prompted to fresh examination of the beginnings of things.

After a beautiful collation, served by the hospitable ladies of the church, Dr. Frederick Woods delivered an instructive and ever timely address on "Preaching." Since doubtless he forms his own preaching habits by the rules laid down, said rules could be only helpful and inspiring. Presiding Elder Eaton spoke forcefully upon the same theme. This fruitful session closed with a second paper by the president on the vital question of "Amusements." He took the ground that the rules in our Discipline on the subject should remain unchanged.

At this annual meeting Dr. James Mudge was re-elected president, and E. T. Curnick secretary. Rev. Alfred Woods, the genial pastor, showed us every courtesy.

E. T. C.

Ministers' Wives' Association.—On the afternoon of Feb. 26, the Everett parsonage was the gathering place of this Association. All of the unusually large number present declared it a most enjoyable meeting. Our good president was in the chair, Mrs. Higgins read from John 10 and Psalm 23. Mrs. Staples offered prayer. The time given to business was brief, being largely occupied by the reading of Mrs. Allen's excellent report of the Stoneham meeting. A committee was appointed to arrange for a possible meeting at Conference. Letters were read from several who were unable to be present. A committee was chosen to prepare resolutions on the death of Mrs. Chadbourne.

The program for the entertainment could not be carried out as announced, but very interesting substitutes were provided for the numbers that had been expected. Mrs. Ward read, "The Floating Bethel," Mrs. Cassidy gave an honest and suggestive review of the late Zion's HERALD articles on "The Wife Element in the Methodist Ministry." As appropriate to the time of year, Mrs. Allen read parts of a poem, "Sugar Maple." Thirty quotations were then given, carefully chosen from the Bible and from Shakespeare. As the selections were read, each wrote against numbers on slips in their hands, "B" or "S"—according to their knowledge or their judgment. The president fittingly stood first, her list being perfect.

The serving of refreshments introduced the social hour, which closed a pleasant afternoon.

ALICE M. TIRRELL, Cor. Sec.

Springfield District.

Barre.—Our church here is fairly prosperous, with peace and harmony prevailing in all lines of work. The Sabbath congregations are good and the social services well attended. The official members have voted to sell the old parsonage this spring, and to either buy or build another. The pastor, Rev. O. W. Adams, has decided to ask for a supernumerary relation at the approaching Conference. The past winter has been a very trying one to him, as he has suffered acutely the most of the time with rheumatism of the nerves and muscles. He has endeavored to preach on Sunday mornings, but only with great effort.

Enfield.—The Conference year is closing pleasantly. At the fourth quarterly conference the return of the pastor, Rev. W. Ferguson, for another year was unanimously requested.

Chicopee Falls.—At the last communion service 8 were received on probation, 8 into full membership and 2 were baptized. Evangelist Weber began work in this place, March 17. The old edifice has been removed and six pews put in its place, making room for 33 more people. Sheathing has been put in all around, and frescoing and painting will be done after Conference. During the three years of the pastorate of Rev. N. B. Flak, 150 persons have been converted, 106 received on probation, and 101 into full membership. There have been 33 removals by letter and death, thus making a net gain of 68.

Easthampton.—The funeral of Mrs. Caroline Neal, widow of Dr. Jonathan Neal, was held on March 3. The church was filled, for the sad affliction of Dr. Neal's death, followed so closely by that of his wife, had excited the sympathy of the entire community. The services were of the most impressive character, and were participated in by all the local clergy. Rev. James Yeames, an old personal friend of Dr. Neal, delivered an address, speaking of his association with Dr. and Mrs. Neal in London, and of their noble, generous labors there. Tender reference was made to the fortitude and Christian resignation of the last few months of the lives of both. The choir rendered the same selections given at the funeral of Dr. Neal one short week before.

South Hadley Falls Methodist church was reopened for service last Thursday. The vestibule has been recarpeted and frescoed and the walls have been sheathed. The audience-room has three spacious entrances instead of two as formerly, and is altogether a transformed and beautiful auditorium, furnished with fine new pews in red oak, beautifully frescoed and freshly carpeted, all the colors blending in a tasteful and harmonious whole. The pulpit and choir platform has been refurnished, the organ scraped and varnished, the pipes reglided and adorned at the sides with ornamental woodwork. The whole church is heated by furnace, and lighted by electricity. The dedicatory services were largely attended, Rev. Dr. Brodbeck preaching in the afternoon with his usual vigor, eloquence and Scripturalness, and Rev. W. R. Newhall in the evening a great sermon with strength and eloquence. The whole cost of the repairs was \$1,600, besides at least \$200 of work given. Towards this sum about \$1,440 have been pledged and collected. The success of the work has been largely due to the pastor, Rev. J. H. Stubbs. So wise has been his management and so reliable his character, the people gladly followed his leadership. In the second year of his pastorate he raised and expended \$600 for putting the yard, fence and vestry in fine condition. The four years have been very successful.

ful, and he and his wife are greatly loved and highly esteemed by the people.

Springfield, Asbury, is in the midst of a revival, which in some respects is quite remarkable. Its characteristics are a spirit of constant and prevailing prayer, great faith and assurance on the part of many Christians that it is to be a great work, and deep conviction in the community, among those even who have not attended the meetings. Several young men and women who hitherto have been taken up with worldly pleasures, have renounced them for larger liberty and new life in Christ. There have been over twenty seekers in all. Last Sunday 14 were received on probation, and the work is steadily growing. Rev. Charles Tilton is pastor.

St. Luke's held its sixth anniversary banquet on Wednesday evening, March 6. The bountiful spread and beautifully decorated tables were crowded with the members and friends of this growing church. During the evening reports were presented by the superintendents of the Sunday-school and primary department, the presidents of the Epworth and Junior Leagues, the secretaries of the Dorcas and W. F. M. Societies, and the pastor. All these showed the church to be in fine condition and increasingly prosperous. Rev. W. G. Richardson is pastor.

Westfield.—Rev. L. H. Dorchester has returned from Bermuda in greatly improved health, and occupied his pulpit on Sunday, a large congregation greeting him. On the communion table was a large group of Bermuda lilies, which the pastor brought back with him. At his suggestion they were carried to those of the people who for various reasons could not attend the service. Rev. W. R. Newhall was greatly enjoyed as supply during the pastor's absence. A committee has for some months been at work revising the church membership roll, and the number will be cut down about 75 in this year's report to Conference.

W. G. R.

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